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TOPICS COVERED (PCS Special)

- 1. Rajasthan becomes first State to issue detailed guidelines on stray dogs after SC directive**
सुप्रीम कोर्ट के निर्देश के बाद राजस्थान आवारा कुत्तों पर विस्तृत दिशानिर्देश जारी करने वाला पहला राज्य बना
- 2. Land sanctioned for new IIM in Pimpri Chinchwad**
पिंपरी चिंचवड में नए आईआईएम के लिए भूमि स्वीकृत

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Rajasthan becomes first State to issue detailed guidelines on stray dogs after SC directive

Rajasthan becomes first State to issue detailed guidelines on stray dogs after SC directive

सुप्रीम कोर्ट के निर्देश के बाद राजस्थान आवारा कुत्तों पर विस्तृत दिशानिर्देश जारी करने वाला पहला राज्य बना

Rajasthan has become the first State in the country to issue a detailed framework on the management of stray dogs with guidelines for civic bodies following a recent directive of the Supreme Court in the matter.

राजस्थान देश का पहला राज्य बन गया है जिसने आवारा कुत्तों के प्रबंधन पर विस्तृत ढांचा जारी किया है, जिसमें नगर निकायों के लिए दिशानिर्देश शामिल हैं, यह कदम हाल ही में सुप्रीम कोर्ट के निर्देश के बाद उठाया गया।

PCS
Mohammed Iqbal
JAIPUR

Rajasthan has become the first State in the country to issue a detailed framework on the management of stray dogs with guidelines for civic bodies following a recent directive of the Supreme Court in the matter. The apex court's ruling pertained to the control of stray canine population in the National Capital Region.

The Department of Local Self Government has circulated comprehensive instructions to all Municipal Corporations, Municipal Councils, and municipalities, mandating strict adherence to the Animal Birth Control (ABC) Rules, 2023.

According to the guidelines, every ward and locality will have designated feeding zones for stray dogs, while new centres



According to the guidelines, every ward and locality will have designated feeding zones for stray dogs. FILE PHOTO

will be established for their sterilisation, vaccination and deworming. The instructions include the action to be taken for capture, treatment and release of dogs. The urban local bodies are required to submit compliance reports within 30 days.

'Humane handling'
The guidelines ban the use of tongs, wires or nooses to capture dogs, instead mandating "humane handling"

by trained personnel who should either use nets or capture them by hand.

Jaipur-based animal rights activist Mariam Abuhaideri said Rajasthan would become a model State for animal birth control and harmonious coexistence with the new framework.

"The implementation of these guidelines is going to be important, as it is not an easy task," Ms. Abuhaideri told *The Hindu*.

- The apex court's ruling pertained to the control of stray canine population in the National Capital Region.
सर्वोच्च न्यायालय का निर्णय राष्ट्रीय राजधानी क्षेत्र में आवारा कुत्तों की आबादी को नियंत्रित करने से संबंधित था।
- The Department of Local Self Government has circulated comprehensive instructions to all Municipal Corporations, Municipal Councils, and municipalities, mandating strict adherence to the **Animal Birth Control (ABC) Rules, 2023**.
स्थानीय स्वशासन विभाग ने सभी नगर निगमों, नगर परिषदों और नगरपालिकाओं को व्यापक निर्देश जारी किए हैं, जिनमें पशु जन्म नियंत्रण (ABC) नियम, 2023 का सख्ती से पालन करना अनिवार्य किया गया है।
- According to the guidelines, every ward and locality will have designated feeding zones for stray dogs, while new centres will be established for their sterilisation, vaccination and deworming. The instructions include the action to be taken for capture, treatment and release of dogs. The urban local bodies are required to submit compliance reports within 30 days.
दिशानिर्देशों के अनुसार, प्रत्येक वार्ड और मोहल्ले में आवारा कुत्तों के लिए खुराक क्षेत्र निर्धारित होंगे, जबकि उनकी बधियाकरण, टीकाकरण और कृमिनाशन के लिए नए केंद्र स्थापित किए जाएंगे। निर्देशों में कुत्तों की पकड़, उपचार और छोड़े जाने के लिए उठाए जाने वाले कदम भी शामिल हैं। शहरी स्थानीय निकायों को 30 दिनों के भीतर अनुपालन रिपोर्ट जमा करनी होगी।



'Humane handling'

'मानवीय प्रबंधन'

- The guidelines ban the use of tongs, wires or nooses to capture dogs, instead mandating "humane handling" by trained personnel who should either use nets or capture them by hand. दिशानिर्देशों में कुत्तों को पकड़ने के लिए चिमटे, तार या फंदे के उपयोग पर प्रतिबंध लगाया गया है, इसके बजाय प्रशिक्षित कर्मचारियों द्वारा "मानवीय प्रबंधन" अनिवार्य किया गया है, जिन्हें या तो जाल का उपयोग करना चाहिए या हाथ से पकड़ना चाहिए।
- Jaipur-based animal rights activist Mariam Abuhaideri said Rajasthan would become a model State for animal birth control and harmonious coexistence with the new framework. जयपुर स्थित पशु अधिकार कार्यकर्ता मरियम अबुहैदेरी ने कहा कि इस नए ढांचे के साथ राजस्थान पशु जन्म नियंत्रण और सौहार्दपूर्ण सह-अस्तित्व के लिए एक मॉडल राज्य बन जाएगा।
- "The implementation of these guidelines is going to be important, as it is not an easy task," Ms. Abuhaideri told The Hindu. "इन दिशानिर्देशों का कार्यान्वयन महत्वपूर्ण होने वाला है, क्योंकि यह कोई आसान कार्य नहीं है," सुश्री अबुहैदेरी ने द हिंदू को बताया।

NEWS IN NUMBERS

Land sanctioned for new IIM in Pimpri Chinchwad

PCS

70 In acres. The Maharashtra government has sanctioned the land in Moshi, Pimpri Chinchwad, near Pune, to set up a new Indian Institute of Management (IIM). Revenue Minister Chandrashekhar Bawankule said the decision followed directions from Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis. PTI

Land sanctioned for new IIM in Pimpri Chinchwad पिंपरी चिंचवड में नए आईआईएम के लिए भूमि स्वीकृत

70 In acres.
70 एकड़ में।

- The Maharashtra government has sanctioned the land in Moshi, Pimpri Chinchwad, near Pune, to set up a new Indian Institute of Management (IIM). महाराष्ट्र सरकार ने मोशी, पिंपरी चिंचवड, पुणे के पास नई भारतीय प्रबंधन संस्थान (IIM) स्थापित करने के लिए भूमि स्वीकृत की है।
- Revenue Minister Chandrashekhar Bawankule said the decision followed directions from Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis. राजस्व मंत्री चंद्रशेखर बावनकुले ने कहा कि यह निर्णय मुख्यमंत्री देवेन्द्र फडणवीस के निर्देशों के बाद लिया गया।

TOPICS COVERED (GS Paper I: History, Society and Geography)

1. Pre-test for Census 2027 to be held in October-November

जनगणना 2027 के लिए प्री-टेस्ट अक्टूबर-नवंबर में आयोजित होगा

2. Mumbai and Vizag among safest cities for women: NARI



महिलाओं के लिए सबसे सुरक्षित शहरों में मुंबई और विशाखापट्टनम: नारी

3. Centering elderly women: caring for the quiet majority
वृद्ध महिलाओं पर केंद्रित: शांत बहुमत की देखभाल

4. Deaths in northern Thailand from Typhoon Kajiki
उत्तर थाईलैंड में टाइफून काजिकी से मौतें

Pre-test for Census 2027 to be held in October-November

GS 1: Census

Vijaita Singh
NEW DELHI

The pre-test exercise for the Population Census, 2027 will be conducted in October and November, the Registrar-General and Census Commissioner (RG & CCI) has informed the Directorates of Census Operations (DCOs) in the States.

A pre-test is required to test the efficacy of the entire exercise that will be held in two phases – Houselisting and Housing Schedule (HLO) and Population Enumeration – between April 1, 2026 and February 28, 2027.

This will be the first digital Census and the first to enumerate caste in Independent India.

The test will evaluate the proposed questions, data collection methodologies, training effectiveness, logistics, printing processes, and data quality assessment, and identify potential field issues, Registrar General of India Mritunjay Kumar Narayan is learnt to have informed the DCOs in the States.

The DCOs have been told that a mobile app will be used for the first time to collect data.

Other aspects such as self-enumeration, digital mapping tools, and a web-based portal for real-time monitoring and management will also be tried out during the pre-test, the DCOs were informed.

Phase 1 questions only

This is the first Census since 2011 as the exercise that was scheduled for 2021 was delayed, initially due to the COVID-19 pandemic. It will now be completed in 2027.

The pre-test for the planned 2021 Census took



Mritunjay Kumar Narayan

place in 2019, covering more than 26 lakh people in 76 districts of 36 States and Union Territories. Around 6,000 enumerators and 1,100 supervisors from State governments were engaged in 2019.

That exercise included questions on household amenities from the first phase, and queries for the National Population Register (NPR) and population enumeration from the second phase, tested in succession from August 12 to September 30, 2019.

Unlike the previous instances, however, this year's pre-test this time will only cover questions about the first phase and not the second population enumeration phase where caste is to be tabulated.

On July 29, the Union government informed the Lok Sabha that no decision has been taken to update the NPR during the upcoming Population Census 2027 exercise.

The NPR is the first step for the creation of a National Register of Citizens (NRC), according to the Citizenship Rules, 2003 under the Citizenship Act, 1955.

The NPR was first created in 2010 and data was collected simultaneously during the first phase of the 2011 Census.

Pre-test for Census 2027 to be held in October-November

जनगणना 2027 के लिए प्री-टेस्ट अक्टूबर-नवंबर में आयोजित होगा

The pre-test exercise for the Population Census, 2027 will be conducted in October and November, the Registrar-General and Census Commissioner (RG & CCI) has informed the Directorates of Census Operations (DCOs) in the States.

जनगणना 2027 के लिए प्री-टेस्ट अभ्यास अक्टूबर और नवंबर में आयोजित किया जाएगा, यह जानकारी महानिबंधक और जनगणना आयुक्त (RG & CCI) ने राज्यों में जनगणना संचालन निदेशालयों (DOCs) को दी है।

• A pre-test is required to test the efficacy of the entire exercise that will be held in two phases — **Houselisting and Housing Schedule (HLO) and Population Enumeration** — between **April 1, 2026 and February 28, 2027**.

पूरा अभ्यास जांचने के लिए एक प्री-टेस्ट आवश्यक है, जो दो चरणों में आयोजित होगा — **हाउसलिस्टिंग और हाउसिंग शेड्यूल (HLO)** और **जनसंख्या गणना** — **1 अप्रैल 2026 से 28 फरवरी 2027** के बीच।

• This will be the first **digital Census** and the first to enumerate **caste** in Independent India.

यह पहली **डिजिटल जनगणना** होगी और स्वतंत्र भारत में पहली बार **जाति** की गणना की जाएगी।

• The test will evaluate the proposed questions, data collection methodologies, training effectiveness, logistics, printing processes, and data quality assessment, and identify potential • eld issues, **Registrar General of India Mritunjay Kumar Narayan** is learnt to have informed the DCOs in the States.

यह परीक्षण प्रस्तावित प्रश्नों, डेटा संग्रह पद्धतियों, प्रशिक्षण की प्रभावशीलता, लॉजिस्टिक्स, प्रिंटिंग प्रक्रियाओं और डेटा गुणवत्ता आकलन का मूल्यांकन करेगा और संभावित क्षेत्रीय मुद्दों की पहचान करेगा, ऐसा बताया गया है कि **भारत के महानिबंधक मृंतुंजय कुमार नारायण** ने राज्यों में DOCs को सूचित किया है।

• The **DCOs have been told that a mobile app** will be used for the first time to collect data.

DCOs को बताया गया है कि पहली बार डेटा संग्रह के लिए एक **मोबाइल ऐप** का उपयोग किया जाएगा।



- Other aspects such as **self-enumeration, digital mapping tools, and a web-based portal** for real-time monitoring and management will also be tried out during the pre-test, the DCOs were informed.
अन्य पहलुओं जैसे स्व-गणना, डिजिटल मैपिंग टूल्स, और वास्तविक समय मॉनिटरिंग व प्रबंधन के लिए वेब-आधारित पोर्टल को भी प्री-टेस्ट के दौरान आजमाया जाएगा, DCOs को सूचित किया गया।
- **Phase 1 questions only**
केवल चरण 1 के प्रश्न
- This is the first Census since **2011** as the exercise that was scheduled for **2021** was delayed, initially due to the **COVID-19 pandemic**. It will now be completed in **2027**.
यह **2011** के बाद पहली जनगणना है क्योंकि **2021** के लिए निर्धारित अभ्यास को प्रारंभ में **कोविड-19 महामारी** के कारण विलंबित कर दिया गया था। अब यह **2027** में पूरी होगी।
- The pre-test for the planned **2021 Census took place in 2019, covering more than 26 lakh people in 76 districts of 36 States and Union Territories**.
निर्धारित **2021 जनगणना** के लिए प्री-टेस्ट **2019** में हुआ था, जिसमें **36 राज्यों और केंद्र शासित प्रदेशों के 76 जिलों में 26 लाख से अधिक लोगों** को शामिल किया गया था।
- Around **6,000 enumerators** and **1,100 supervisors** from State governments were engaged in **2019**.
लगभग **6,000 गणनाकार** और **1,100 पर्यवेक्षक** राज्य सरकारों से **2019** में शामिल किए गए थे।
- That exercise included questions on household amenities from the • rst phase, and queries for the **National Population Register (NPR)** and population enumeration from the second phase, tested in succession from **August 12 to September 30, 2019**.
उस अभ्यास में पहले चरण से घरेलू सुविधाओं पर प्रश्न शामिल थे, और दूसरे चरण से **राष्ट्रीय जनसंख्या रजिस्टर (NPR)** और जनसंख्या गणना से संबंधित प्रश्न शामिल थे, जिन्हें **12 अगस्त से 30 सितंबर, 2019** तक क्रमवार परखा गया था।
- Unlike the previous instances, however, this year's pre-test this time will only cover questions about the first phase and not the second population enumeration phase where **caste** is to be tabulated.
हालांकि पिछले मामलों के विपरीत, इस वर्ष का प्री-टेस्ट केवल पहले चरण से संबंधित प्रश्नों को कवर करेगा और दूसरे जनसंख्या गणना चरण को शामिल नहीं करेगा, जहां **जाति** को दर्ज किया जाना है।
- On **July 29**, the **Union government informed the Lok Sabha that no decision has been taken to update the NPR during the upcoming Population Census 2027 exercise**.
29 जुलाई को **केंद्र सरकार** ने **लोकसभा** को सूचित किया कि आगामी **जनगणना 2027** अभ्यास के दौरान **NPR** को अपडेट करने का कोई निर्णय नहीं लिया गया है।
- The **NPR** is the first step for the creation of a **National Register of Citizens (NRC)**, according to the **Citizenship Rules, 2003** under the **Citizenship Act, 1955**.
नागरिकता अधिनियम, 1955 के तहत **नागरिकता नियम, 2003** के अनुसार **NPR** **राष्ट्रीय नागरिक रजिस्टर (NRC)** बनाने की पहली सीढ़ी है।
- The **NPR** was first created in **2010** and data was collected simultaneously during the • rst phase of the **2011 Census**.
NPR पहली बार **2010** में बनाया गया था और **2011 जनगणना** के पहले चरण के दौरान डेटा एक साथ एकत्र किया गया था।



Mumbai and Vizag among safest cities for women: NARI

GS Paper I: Society

Press Trust of India

NEW DELHI

Mumbai, Visakhapatnam, Kohima, Bhubaneswar, Aizawl, Gangtok, and Itanagar have emerged as the safest cities in the country for women, while Patna, Jaipur, Faridabad, Delhi, Kolkata, Srinagar and Ranchi were ranked the lowest, according to the National Annual Report and Index on Women's Safety (NARI) 2025.

The nationwide index released on Thursday, based on a survey of 12,770 women across 31 cities, placed the national safety score at 65%.

Kohima and other top-ranked cities were associated with stronger gender equity, civic participation, policing and women-friendly infrastructure. Whereas, cities like Patna



The study revealed sharp drops in perceptions of safety at night across cities

and Jaipur fared poorly due to weak institutional responsiveness, patriarchal norms and gaps in urban infrastructure, the report said.

Overall, six in 10 women surveyed felt "safe" in their city, but 40% still considered themselves "not so safe" or "unsafe". The study revealed sharp drops in perceptions of safety at night, particularly in public transport and recreational spaces.

शहरों को मजबूत लैंगिक समानता, नागरिक भागीदारी, पुलिसिंग और महिला अनुकूल बुनियादी ढांचे से जोड़ा गया।

- Whereas, cities like Patna and Jaipur fared poorly due to weak institutional responsiveness, patriarchal norms and gaps in urban infrastructure, the report said.

Mumbai and Vizag among safest cities for women: NARI महिलाओं के लिए सबसे सुरक्षित शहरों में मुंबई और विशाखापट्टनम: नारी

- Mumbai, Visakhapatnam, Kohima, Bhubaneswar, Aizawl, Gangtok, and Itanagar have emerged as the safest cities in the country for women, while Patna, Jaipur, Faridabad, Delhi, Kolkata, Srinagar and Ranchi were ranked the lowest, according to the National Annual Report and Index on Women's Safety (NARI) 2025.

मुंबई, विशाखापट्टनम, कोहिमा, भुवनेश्वर, आइज़ोल, गंगटोक और ईटानगर देश में महिलाओं के लिए सबसे सुरक्षित शहरों के रूप में उभरे हैं, जबकि पटना, जयपुर, फरीदाबाद, दिल्ली, कोलकाता, श्रीनगर और रांची को सबसे नीचे स्थान दिया गया, राष्ट्रीय वार्षिक रिपोर्ट और महिलाओं की सुरक्षा सूचकांक (नारी) 2025 के अनुसार।

- The nationwide index released on Thursday, based on a survey of 12,770 women across 31 cities, placed the national safety score at 65%.

गुरुवार को जारी राष्ट्रव्यापी सूचकांक, जो 31 शहरों में 12,770 महिलाओं के सर्वेक्षण पर आधारित है, ने राष्ट्रीय सुरक्षा स्कोर 65% रखा।

- Kohima and other top-ranked cities were associated with stronger gender equity, civic participation, policing and women-friendly infrastructure. Kohima और अन्य शीर्ष स्थान प्राप्त



जबकि पटना और जयपुर जैसे शहर कमजोर संस्थागत उत्तरदायित्व, पितृसत्तात्मक मानदंड और शहरी बुनियादी ढांचे की खामियों के कारण खराब प्रदर्शन करते हैं, रिपोर्ट में कहा गया।

- Overall, six in 10 women surveyed felt “safe” in their city, but **40%** still considered themselves “not so safe” or “unsafe”.

कुल मिलाकर, 10 में से 6 महिलाओं ने अपने शहर में खुद को "सुरक्षित" महसूस किया, लेकिन **40%** ने अभी भी खुद को "ज्यादा सुरक्षित नहीं" या "असुरक्षित" माना।

- The study revealed sharp drops in perceptions of safety at night, particularly in **public transport and recreational spaces**.

अध्ययन ने रात में सुरक्षा की धारणा में तेज गिरावट दिखाई, विशेषकर सार्वजनिक परिवहन और मनोरंजन स्थलों में।

Centering elderly women: caring for the quiet majority

To truly support and empower elderly women in their health-seeking behaviours, India needs to move to more inclusive gender-sensitive health systems. Policies need to acknowledge the gendered path of Indian women and how these factors shape their ageing

ISSUE: Elderly Women

Sathya Sriram

India is ageing, rapidly. And it is women who are living longer, but with poor health.

According to the *India Ageing Report 2023* as published by the International Institute for Population Sciences and the United Nations Population Fund, there will be a significant decadal increase in India's elderly population, with people aged 60 and above estimated to comprise over **20% of the population by 2050**.

The average lifespan of women is more than that of men by 2.7 years, resulting in a demographic tilt favouring more elderly women. However, the McKinsey Health Institute estimates that women are likely to spend 25% more time in poor health compared to men, much of those in their later years, highlighting a health gap to be bridged.

Despite these sobering figures, the conversations about elderly women and their health stay in the shadows, with society treating them as passive dependents rather than as individuals with distinct needs and challenges. Add to this their care-giving and self-sacrificing instinct, and we have a large majority of elderly women, navigating public spaces in silence.

Care-seeking behaviour

The social determinants of women's health go well beyond medical causes to include socio-cultural, economic, and structural factors. Health-seeking behaviour is defined as action an individual undertakes to obtain medical attention, what type of care they seek, and how they continuously manage that condition. Typically, this is influenced by access to information, disease perception, demographics, economic status, access to facilities, perceived quality of services, and socio-cultural beliefs. In the case of women, we need to layer on additional factors such as education, social conditioning, marital status, financial and digital dependency, and lack of gender-sensitive care facilities.

Indian women are socialised to prioritise family wellbeing over their own, and therefore, tend to de-prioritise their health needs. In many patriarchal households, the spouse or adult children tend to be gatekeepers of the decision about when and whether an elderly woman seeks care.

Financial insecurity is a significant vulnerability among older women. A UNFPA study from 2011 reported that almost 60% of older women have no personal income. And, few elderly women have health insurance coverage. Less than 20% of women are able to pay



The conversations about elderly women and their health stay in the shadows, with society treating them as passive dependents rather than as individuals with distinct needs and challenges. FILE PHOTO

their own medical bills, compared to 44% of elderly men. This high economic dependency tends to hold women back from seeking appropriate early medical care.

The digital gender gap is accentuated amongst the elderly, with far fewer women having access to digital devices, which impacts their access to health information and services.

An UNFPA study to understand the needs and challenges of older women in India, uncovered that two-thirds of older women are accompanied by their children or grandchildren (versus 41% among older men), indicating a higher level of dependency.

Insufficient access to female health providers as well information and diagnostics for women's health issues can delay care even if one reaches the facility. Once within the health system, women often need support in navigating its complex processes, which also deters them from accessing health services.

The more commonly discussed ageing-driven chronic conditions are cardiovascular (heart), cancers, and neurodegenerative (brain) diseases. However, the nuances of how women experience these conditions due to their physiological transitions and caregiving burdens are less acknowledged and far less studied.

In order to experience healthy ageing, women should have access to affordable

and adequate healthcare throughout their lives. In India, healthcare expenditure is far less on women than men across all ages and socio-economic groups, further worsening health conditions later in life that are more likely to impede quality of life and cause disability.

Due to the hormone shifts post menopause, loss of muscle mass and nutritional deficiencies, the non-communicable diseases of hypertension, diabetes and cardiovascular illnesses tend to have more severe outcomes and complications in women. Furthermore, the decline in bone health is a substantial risk for osteoporosis and arthritis, which are much more common in women, yet under-diagnosed. The risk of fractures from falls is also significantly higher in women and can result in disability or limited movement that affects their mental well-being.

Once women move past the reproductive phase, the healthcare system barely considers their uro-gynaecological health. In lower income settings, women rarely have a gynaecological examination post childbirth. Cancers of the breast, cervix, ovaries, and uterus disproportionately affect older women and often go undiagnosed until late stages. Over 50% of breast cancer cases in India occur in post-menopausal women, yet screening awareness drops sharply with age.

A study analysing treatment patterns in Indian women aged 65 and above with breast cancer found that on average, treatment was less aggressive, but appropriate therapies (surgery and chemotherapy) could improve survival rates and lead to favourable outcomes.

The awareness and availability of vaccines is helping reduce the risk of cervical cancer amongst younger women; however, older women are still susceptible with limited access to, and frequency of, pap smears. Worse still is ovarian cancer, the most lethal gynaecological cancer, with a five-year relative survival rate of 17% for a patient diagnosed at an advanced stage.

Certain neurodegenerative diseases, Alzheimer's and other dementias, are more likely to develop in women, both due to biological factors (oestrogen decline) and social conditions (longer lifespan, isolation due to loss of spouse). According to the Longitudinal Ageing Study in India (LASI), women aged over 70 report higher levels of cognitive impairment yet are less diagnosed and treated compared to men.

Mental health issues among elderly women are under-reported, under-diagnosed, and under-treated.

As per HelpAge India, only 1 in 10 elderly women with depressive symptoms seek help – due to stigma as well as limited access to mental health services for the elderly.

Better care

Despite the many systemic challenges, elderly women in India proactively engage in many activities that enhance their well-being.

Socially, elderly women tend to be deeply embedded in family and community networks. These social engagements are potential protective factors against loneliness and cognitive decline.

Many women also find joy and purpose in routines that keep them physically and mentally active, such as walking groups, yoga classes, or taking up new hobbies such as painting or music.

Finally, educated women avail of better outpatient care, both in public and private facilities, making years of schooling the primary driver of choice.

To truly support and empower elderly women in their health-seeking behaviours, India needs to move to more inclusive gender-sensitive health systems. Policies need to acknowledge the gendered path of Indian women and how these factors shape their ageing.

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THE GIST

▼ A 2011 UNFPA study found that fewer than 20% of women could pay their own medical bills, limiting access to early care

▼ According to HelpAge India, just 1 in 10 elderly women with depressive symptoms seek help, hindered by stigma and poor access to mental health services

▼ In India, healthcare expenditure is far less on women than men across all ages and socio-economic groups, further worsening health conditions later in life



Centering elderly women: caring for the quiet majority वृद्ध महिलाओं पर केंद्रित: शांत बहुमत की देखभाल

To truly support and empower elderly women in their health-seeking behaviours, India needs to move to more inclusive gender-sensitive health systems.

वृद्ध महिलाओं के स्वास्थ्य-सम्बन्धी व्यवहारों का सही समर्थन और सशक्तिकरण करने के लिए, भारत को अधिक समावेशी और लैंगिक-संवेदनशील स्वास्थ्य प्रणालियों की ओर बढ़ने की आवश्यकता है।

- Policies need to acknowledge the gendered path of Indian women and how these factors shape their ageing.
नीतियों को भारतीय महिलाओं के लैंगिक मार्ग और कैसे ये कारक उनके बुढ़ापे को आकार देते हैं, इसे मान्यता देनी चाहिए।
- India is aging rapidly. And it is women who are living longer, but with poor health.
भारत तेजी से वृद्ध हो रहा है। और महिलाएँ अधिक समय तक जीवित रहती हैं, लेकिन खराब स्वास्थ्य के साथ।
- According to the **India Ageing Report 2023** as published by the **International Institute for Population Sciences** and the **United Nations Population Fund**, there will be a significant decadal increase in India's elderly population, with **people aged 60 and above estimated to comprise over 20% of the population by 2050**.
इंडिया एजिंग रिपोर्ट 2023 के अनुसार, जिसे इंटरनेशनल इंस्टीट्यूट फॉर पॉपुलेशन साइंसेज और संयुक्त राष्ट्र जनसंख्या कोष द्वारा प्रकाशित किया गया, भारत की वृद्ध आबादी में दशकीय वृद्धि होगी, और 60 वर्ष और उससे ऊपर के लोग 2050 तक आबादी का 20% से अधिक होंगे।
- The average lifespan of women is more than that of men by **2.7 years**, resulting in a demographic tilt favouring more elderly women.
महिलाओं की औसत आयु पुरुषों से 2.7 वर्ष अधिक है, जिसके परिणामस्वरूप जनसंख्या संरचना अधिक वृद्ध महिलाओं की ओर झुक रही है।
- However, the **McKinsey Health Institute** estimates that women are likely to spend **25% more time in poor health** compared to men, much of those in their later years, highlighting a health gap to be bridged.
हालाँकि, मैकिंजी हेल्थ इंस्टीट्यूट का अनुमान है कि महिलाएँ पुरुषों की तुलना में 25% अधिक समय खराब स्वास्थ्य में बिताएंगी, विशेषकर जीवन के अंतिम वर्षों में, जो स्वास्थ्य अंतराल को दर्शाता है।
- Despite these sobering figures, the conversations about elderly women and their health stay in the shadows, with society treating them as passive dependents rather than as individuals with distinct needs and challenges.
इन गंभीर आँकड़ों के बावजूद, वृद्ध महिलाओं और उनके स्वास्थ्य पर बातचीत छाया में ही रहती है, क्योंकि समाज उन्हें विशेष आवश्यकताओं और चुनौतियों वाले व्यक्तियों के बजाय निष्क्रिय आश्रित के रूप में देखता है।
- Add to this their care-giving and self-sacrificing instinct, and we have a large majority of elderly women, navigating public spaces in silence.
इसके साथ ही उनकी देखभाल करने और आत्म-बलिदान की प्रवृत्ति जोड़ दी जाए, तो हमारे पास एक बड़ी संख्या में वृद्ध महिलाएँ होती हैं, जो सार्वजनिक स्थलों पर चुपचाप चलती रहती हैं।

Care-seeking behaviour देखभाल-खोजने का व्यवहार

- The social determinants of women's health go well beyond medical causes to include socio-cultural, economic, and structural factors.
महिलाओं के स्वास्थ्य के सामाजिक निर्धारक केवल चिकित्सीय कारणों से आगे बढ़कर सामाजिक-सांस्कृतिक, आर्थिक और संरचनात्मक कारकों को भी शामिल करते हैं।



- Health-seeking behaviour is defined as action an individual undertakes to obtain medical attention, what type of care they seek, and how they continuously manage that condition.
स्वास्थ्य-खोजने का व्यवहार वह क्रिया है जो व्यक्ति चिकित्सा सहायता प्राप्त करने के लिए करता है, किस प्रकार की देखभाल चाहता है और वह उस स्थिति का लगातार प्रबंधन कैसे करता है।
- Typically, this is influenced by access to information, disease perception, demographics, economic status, access to facilities, perceived quality of services, and socio-cultural beliefs.
आमतौर पर, यह जानकारी की उपलब्धता, **रोग की धारणा**, जनसांख्यिकी, आर्थिक स्थिति, सुविधाओं की उपलब्धता, सेवाओं की मानी जाने वाली गुणवत्ता और सामाजिक-सांस्कृतिक मान्यताओं से प्रभावित होता है।
- In the case of women, we need to layer on additional factors such as education, social conditioning, marital status, financial and digital dependency, and lack of gender-sensitive care facilities.
महिलाओं के मामले में, हमें अतिरिक्त कारकों जैसे **शिक्षा**, सामाजिक प्रशिक्षण, वैवाहिक स्थिति, **वित्तीय और डिजिटल निर्भरता**, और लैंगिक-संवेदनशील देखभाल सुविधाओं की कमी को भी जोड़ना होगा।
- Indian women are socialised to prioritise family wellbeing over their own, and therefore, tend to deprioritise their health needs.
भारतीय महिलाओं को इस तरह समाजीकृत किया गया है कि वे अपने से पहले **परिवार की भलाई** को प्राथमिकता दें, और इस कारण वे अपने स्वास्थ्य की आवश्यकताओं को पीछे कर देती हैं।
- In many patriarchal households, the spouse or adult children tend to be gatekeepers of the decision about when and whether an elderly woman seeks care.
कई **पितृसत्तात्मक परिवारों** में, पति या वयस्क बच्चे यह तय करने वाले **गेटकीपर** होते हैं कि वृद्ध महिला कब और देखभाल लेगी या नहीं।
- Financial insecurity is a significant vulnerability among older women.**
वित्तीय असुरक्षा वृद्ध महिलाओं में एक महत्वपूर्ण कमजोरी है।
- A UNFPA study from 2011 reported that almost 60% of older women have no personal income.**
यूएनएफपीए के 2011 के अध्ययन ने बताया कि लगभग **60%** वृद्ध महिलाओं की कोई व्यक्तिगत आय नहीं है।
- And, few elderly women have health insurance coverage.
और, बहुत कम वृद्ध महिलाओं के पास **स्वास्थ्य बीमा कवरेज** है।
- Less than 20% of women are able to pay their own medical bills, compared to 44% of elderly men.**
केवल **20%** महिलाएँ ही अपने चिकित्सा बिलों का भुगतान कर पाती हैं, जबकि **44%** वृद्ध पुरुषों की तुलना में।
- This high economic dependency tends to hold women back from seeking appropriate early medical care.
यह उच्च **आर्थिक निर्भरता** महिलाओं को उपयुक्त और शुरुआती चिकित्सा देखभाल लेने से रोकती है।

Digital gender gap and elderly women's health

डिजिटल लैंगिक अंतर और वृद्ध महिलाओं का स्वास्थ्य

- The digital gender gap is accentuated amongst the elderly, with far fewer women having access to digital devices, which impacts their access to health information and services.
डिजिटल लैंगिक अंतर वृद्धों में और अधिक बढ़ जाता है, बहुत कम महिलाओं को **डिजिटल उपकरणों** तक पहुँच होती है, जिससे उनके **स्वास्थ्य संबंधी जानकारी और सेवाओं** तक पहुँच प्रभावित होती है।
- An UNFPA study to understand the needs and challenges of older women in India, uncovered that two-thirds of older women are accompanied by their children or grandchildren (versus **41% among older men**), indicating a higher level of dependency.
भारत में वृद्ध महिलाओं की आवश्यकताओं और चुनौतियों को समझने के लिए किए गए एक **UNFPA अध्ययन** में पाया गया कि लगभग **दो-तिहाई वृद्ध महिलाएँ** अपने बच्चों या पोते-पोतियों के साथ होती हैं (जबकि वृद्ध पुरुषों में यह केवल **41%** है), जो अधिक **निर्भरता** को दर्शाता है।
- Insufficient access to female health providers as well information and diagnostics for women's health issues can delay care even if one reaches the facility.
महिला स्वास्थ्य प्रदाताओं की **अपर्याप्त उपलब्धता**, साथ ही महिलाओं के स्वास्थ्य मुद्दों के लिए जानकारी और **निदान सुविधाओं** की कमी, देखभाल में देरी कर सकती है, भले ही कोई महिला **स्वास्थ्य केंद्र** तक पहुँच जाए।



- Once within the health system, women often need support in navigating its complex processes, which also deters them from accessing health services.
स्वास्थ्य प्रणाली के भीतर पहुँचने के बाद, महिलाओं को अक्सर इसके जटिल प्रक्रियाओं को समझने में सहायता की आवश्यकता होती है, जो उन्हें स्वास्थ्य सेवाओं तक पहुँचने से भी हतोत्साहित करती है।
- The more commonly discussed aging-driven chronic conditions are **cardiovascular (heart), cancers, and neurodegenerative (brain) diseases**.
बुढ़ापे से जुड़ी जिन दीर्घकालिक बीमारियों पर अधिक चर्चा होती है, वे हैं — हृदय रोग, कैंसर, और मस्तिष्क संबंधी बीमारियाँ (न्यूरोडीजेनेरेटिव रोग)।
- However, the nuances of how women experience these conditions due to their **physiological transitions and caregiving burdens** are less acknowledged and far less studied.
हालांकि, इन बीमारियों को महिलाएँ कैसे अनुभव करती हैं, यह उनके शारीरिक परिवर्तनों और देखभाल के बोझ के कारण है, लेकिन इस पर कम ध्यान दिया गया है और बहुत कम अध्ययन हुआ है।
- In order to experience **healthy ageing**, women should have access to **affordable and adequate healthcare** throughout their lives.
स्वस्थ बुढ़ापे के लिए, महिलाओं को अपने पूरे जीवन में सुलभ और पर्याप्त स्वास्थ्य देखभाल तक पहुँच होनी चाहिए।
- In **India**, healthcare expenditure is far less on women than men across all ages and socio-economic groups, further worsening health conditions later in life that are more likely to impede quality of life and cause **disability**.
भारत में, महिलाओं पर स्वास्थ्य खर्च सभी आयु और सामाजिक-आर्थिक वर्गों में पुरुषों की तुलना में बहुत कम है, जिससे जीवन के बाद के चरणों में स्वास्थ्य की स्थिति और बिगड़ जाती है, जो जीवन की गुणवत्ता को बाधित कर सकती है और विकलांगता का कारण बन सकती है।
- Due to the **hormone shifts post menopause**, **loss of muscle mass and nutritional deficiencies**, the non-communicable diseases of **hypertension, diabetes and cardiovascular illnesses** tend to have more severe outcomes and complications in women.
रजोनिवृत्ति के बाद हार्मोनल बदलाव, मांसपेशियों का कम होना और पोषण की कमी के कारण, महिलाओं में हाई ब्लड प्रेशर, मधुमेह और हृदय रोग जैसी गैर-संचारी बीमारियों के परिणाम और जटिलताएँ अधिक गंभीर होती हैं।
- Furthermore, the decline in **bone health** is a substantial risk for **osteoporosis and arthritis**, which are much more common in women, yet under-diagnosed.
इसके अलावा, हड्डियों के स्वास्थ्य में गिरावट, ऑस्टियोपोरोसिस और गठिया का एक बड़ा खतरा है, जो महिलाओं में अधिक आम है, फिर भी इसका निदान कम किया जाता है।
- The risk of **fractures** from falls is also significantly higher in women and can result in **disability** or limited movement that affects their **mental well-being**.
गिरने से हड्डी टूटने का खतरा भी महिलाओं में काफी अधिक है और इससे विकलांगता या गतिशीलता की कमी हो सकती है, जो उनके मानसिक स्वास्थ्य को प्रभावित करती है।
- Once women move past the **reproductive phase**, the **healthcare system** barely considers their **uro-gynaecological health**.
जब महिलाएँ प्रजनन चरण से आगे बढ़ जाती हैं, तो स्वास्थ्य प्रणाली उनके मूत्र-स्त्री रोग संबंधी स्वास्थ्य पर शायद ही ध्यान देती है।
- In **lower income settings**, women rarely have a **gynaecological examination post childbirth**.
निम्न-आय वाले वर्गों में, महिलाएँ प्रसव के बाद शायद ही कभी स्त्रीरोग संबंधी जांच करवाती हैं।
- **Cancers of the breast, cervix, ovaries, and uterus** disproportionately affect older women and often go undiagnosed until late stages.
स्तन, गर्भाशय ग्रीवा, अंडाशय और गर्भाशय के कैंसर वृद्ध महिलाओं को अनुपातहीन रूप से प्रभावित करते हैं और अक्सर देर से चरणों तक निदान नहीं होते।
- **Over 50% of breast cancer cases in India** occur in **post-menopausal women**, yet **screening awareness drops sharply with age**.
भारत में 50% से अधिक स्तन कैंसर के मामले रजोनिवृत्ति के बाद की महिलाओं में होते हैं, फिर भी जाँच संबंधी जागरूकता उम्र के साथ तेज़ी से घट जाती है।

Study on Breast Cancer, Mental Health, and Care among Elderly Women in India
भारत में वृद्ध महिलाओं में स्तन कैंसर, मानसिक स्वास्थ्य और देखभाल पर अध्ययन



- A study analysing treatment patterns in **Indian women aged 65 and above with breast cancer** found that on average, treatment was less aggressive, but appropriate therapies (surgery and chemotherapy) could improve survival rates and lead to favourable outcomes.
भारत में 65 वर्ष और उससे अधिक आयु की महिलाओं में स्तन कैंसर के उपचार पैटर्न का विश्लेषण करने वाले एक अध्ययन में पाया गया कि औसतन उपचार कम आक्रामक था, लेकिन उपयुक्त उपचार (सर्जरी और कीमोथेरेपी) से जीवित रहने की दर में सुधार हो सकता है और अनुकूल परिणाम मिल सकते हैं।
- The awareness and availability of **vaccines** is helping reduce the risk of **cervical cancer** amongst younger women; however, older women are still susceptible with limited access to, and frequency of, pap smears.
टीकों के प्रति जागरूकता और उनकी उपलब्धता गर्भाशय ग्रीवा के कैंसर के जोखिम को युवा महिलाओं में कम करने में मदद कर रही है; हालांकि, वृद्ध महिलाएँ अभी भी सीमित पहुंच और पाप स्मीयर की आवृत्ति के कारण संवेदनशील हैं।
- Worse still is **ovarian cancer**, the most lethal gynaecological cancer, with a **five-year relative survival rate of 17%** for a patient diagnosed at an advanced stage.
और भी गंभीर है **अंडाशय का कैंसर**, जो सबसे घातक स्त्रीरोग संबंधी कैंसर है, जिसमें उन्नत अवस्था में निदान किए गए रोगी के लिए **पाँच-वर्षीय सापेक्ष जीवित रहने की दर 17%** है।
- **Certain neurodegenerative diseases, Alzheimer's and other dementias**, are more likely to develop in women, both due to biological factors (**oestrogen decline**) and social conditions (longer lifespan, isolation due to loss of spouse).
कुछ **तंत्रिका अपक्षयी रोग**, जैसे **अल्जाइमर** और अन्य डिमेंशिया, महिलाओं में अधिक विकसित होने की संभावना रखते हैं, जैविक कारकों (**एस्ट्रोजन में गिरावट**) और सामाजिक परिस्थितियों (लंबी आयु, जीवनसाथी की मृत्यु के कारण अलगाव) दोनों की वजह से।
- According to the **Longitudinal Aging Study in India (LASI)**, women aged over 70 report higher levels of cognitive impairment yet are less diagnosed and treated compared to men.
भारत में **दीर्घकालिक वृद्धावस्था अध्ययन (LASI)** के अनुसार, 70 वर्ष से अधिक आयु की महिलाएँ उच्च स्तर की संज्ञानात्मक हानि की रिपोर्ट करती हैं, फिर भी पुरुषों की तुलना में उनका निदान और उपचार कम होता है।
- Mental health issues among elderly women are under-reported, under-diagnosed, and under-treated.
वृद्ध महिलाओं में मानसिक स्वास्थ्य समस्याओं की कम रिपोर्टिंग होती है, कम निदान किया जाता है और कम उपचार मिलता है।
- As per **HelpAge India**, only **1 in 10 elderly women** with depressive symptoms seek help — due to stigma as well as limited access to mental health services for the elderly.
हेल्पएज इंडिया के अनुसार, अवसादग्रस्त लक्षणों वाली केवल **10 में से 1 वृद्ध महिला** ही मदद मांगती है — कलंक के साथ-साथ वृद्धों के लिए मानसिक स्वास्थ्य सेवाओं तक सीमित पहुंच के कारण।

Better care बेहतर देखभाल

- Despite the many systemic challenges, elderly women in India proactively engage in many activities that enhance their well-being.
कई प्रणालीगत चुनौतियों के बावजूद, भारत में वृद्ध महिलाएँ सक्रिय रूप से कई गतिविधियों में भाग लेती हैं जो उनके स्वास्थ्य और कल्याण को बढ़ाती हैं।
- Socially, elderly women tend to be deeply embedded in family and community networks. These social engagements are potential protective factors against loneliness and cognitive decline.
सामाजिक रूप से, वृद्ध महिलाएँ परिवार और सामुदायिक नेटवर्क में गहराई से जुड़ी होती हैं। ये सामाजिक जुड़ाव अकेलेपन और संज्ञानात्मक हास के खिलाफ संभावित सुरक्षात्मक कारक हैं।
- Many women also find joy and purpose in routines that keep them physically and mentally active, such as walking groups, yoga classes, or taking up new hobbies such as painting or music.
कई महिलाएँ उन गतिविधियों से भी आनंद और उद्देश्य पाती हैं जो उन्हें शारीरिक और मानसिक रूप से सक्रिय रखती हैं, जैसे वॉकिंग ग्रुप, योग कक्षाएँ, या पेंटिंग और संगीत जैसी नई रुचियों को अपनाना।
- Finally, educated women avail of better outpatient care, both in public and private facilities, making years of schooling the primary driver of choice.



अंततः, शिक्षित महिलाएँ सार्वजनिक और निजी दोनों सुविधाओं में बेहतर बाह्य रोगी देखभाल का लाभ उठाती हैं, जिससे वर्षों की स्कूली शिक्षा प्रमुख निर्णायक कारक बन जाती है।

- To truly support and empower elderly women in their health-seeking behaviours, India needs to move to more inclusive gender-sensitive health systems.
वृद्ध महिलाओं को उनके स्वास्थ्य संबंधी व्यवहारों में वास्तव में समर्थन और सशक्त बनाने के लिए, भारत को अधिक समावेशी और लिंग-संवेदनशील स्वास्थ्य प्रणालियों की ओर बढ़ने की आवश्यकता है।
- Policies need to acknowledge the gendered path of Indian women and how these factors shape their ageing.
नीतियों को भारतीय महिलाओं के लिंग-आधारित मार्ग को स्वीकार करने और यह समझने की आवश्यकता है कि ये कारक उनकी वृद्धावस्था को कैसे प्रभावित करते हैं।

Deaths in northern Thailand from Typhoon Kajiki

Deaths in northern Thailand from Typhoon Kajiki उत्तर थाईलैंड में टाइफून काजिकी से मौतें

GS I: Geography

5 Typhoon Kajiki has killed five people and injured 15 in northern Thailand, where flash floods and landslides have struck 12 provinces. More than 6,300 residents and 1,800 households have been affected, with at least seven people reported missing. Authorities warn water levels may rise as heavy rain is forecast to continue through next week. **REUTERS**

Typhoon Kajiki has killed **five people** and injured **15** in **northern Thailand**, where flash floods and landslides have struck **12 provinces**.

टाइफून काजिकी ने उत्तर थाईलैंड में पांच लोगों की जान ले ली और 15 को घायल कर दिया, जहां अचानक बाढ़ और भूस्खलन ने 12 प्रांतों को प्रभावित किया।

More than **6,300 residents** and **1,800 households** have been affected, with at least **seven people** reported missing.

6,300 से अधिक निवासी और **1,800 परिवार** प्रभावित हुए हैं, और कम से कम **सात लोग** लापता बताए गए हैं।

Authorities warn water levels may rise as **heavy rain**

is forecast to continue through **next week**.

प्रशासन ने चेतावनी दी है कि जल स्तर बढ़ सकता है क्योंकि **अगले सप्ताह तक भारी वर्षा** जारी रहने का अनुमान है।

TOPICS COVERED (GS Paper II: Polity, Governance, And International Relations)

- U.S. official calls conflict in Ukraine 'Modi's war'**
अमेरिकी अधिकारी ने यूक्रेन के संघर्ष को 'मोदी का युद्ध' कहा
- Security agreement, business pacts, bullet train ride on PM's Japan agenda**
सुरक्षा समझौता, व्यापार समझौते, बुलेट ट्रेन यात्रा प्रधानमंत्री के जापान दौरे के एजेंडे में



3. India, Saudi hold 7th joint defence panel meet in Delhi भारत, सऊदी ने दिल्ली में 7वीं संयुक्त रक्षा समिति की बैठक की

U.S. official calls conflict in Ukraine 'Modi's war'

Trump Trade Advisor accuses Indian officials of 'arrogance' and 'profiteering' from refining

Democrats slam Trump govt. for extra 25% sanctions on India, noting that the Chinese buy more Russian oil

Former officials express hope that situation will be solved at highest levels, possibly through talks

GS II: India-US

Suhasini Haidar
NEW DELHI

A day after the U.S. imposed 25% secondary sanctions on Indian goods as a penalty for India's purchases of Russian oil, in addition to the earlier 25% reciprocal tariffs, the Trump administration kept up its tirade, terming the conflict in Ukraine "Modi's war".

The U.S. Opposition Democratic party, however, criticised the move, saying that "singling out India" would hurt the U.S. as well. Former U.S. officials, including former Ambassador Kenneth Juster, expressed hope that the situation would be resolved at the highest levels, potentially through a meeting between U.S. President Donald Trump and Prime Minister Narendra Modi. "India can get 25% off

the tariffs right now if they agree to stop buying [Russian] oil and feeding the war machine," said Mr. Trump's Trade Advisor Peter Navarro, who has been leading the charge on tariffs. He accused Indian negotiators of falsely claiming that India does not charge high tariffs, and of "arrogance" in refusing to cut oil imports from Russia, while "profiteering" from refining Russian oil in partnership with Russian refiners, a reference to the Vadinar refinery in Gujarat.

America's cost
"Everybody in America loses because of what India is doing. Consumers and businesses lose, workers lose because India's high tariffs cost us jobs, income and higher raises. The taxpayers lose because we've got to fund Modi's war." Mr. Navarro told the



Bloomberg news agency, accusing India of "getting in bed with the authoritarians" like Russia and China.

U.S. Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent called India-U.S. ties a "complicated relationship", despite good ties between Mr. Trump and Mr. Modi, and said that

the issue was not just Russian oil purchases but India's failure to make a deal with the U.S. on trade.

"I thought India could be one of the earlier deals and they kind of tapped us along in terms of the negotiations. Then there is also the aspect of the Russian crude purchases which

'Removal of tariffs not a prerequisite for trade talks'

NEW DELHI
The removal of the additional 25% tariff on India is not a prerequisite for trade negotiations to resume between India and the United States, but a trade deal would not "be practical" if these tariffs were to remain, according to government sources. » PAGE 12

they've been profiteering on," Mr. Bessent said on Wednesday, where he said the Indian rupee is at "an all-time low" due to recent developments.

Democratic lawmakers, however, attacked the Trump government, pointing out that China buys more Russian oil than India.

In the past month, China has increased its intake of Russian oil even as India decreased its purchases.

"Instead of imposing sanctions on China or others purchasing larger amounts of Russian oil, Trump's singling out India with tariffs, hurting Americans and sabotaging the U.S.-India relationship in the process. It's almost like it's not about Ukraine at all," the Democrats in the House Foreign Affairs Committee said on X.

Meanwhile, a number of former U.S. officials who have dealt with India in the past expressed their disappointment with the situation leading to the U.S. slapping 50% tariffs on Indian goods from August 27.

"Unfortunately, the United States and India have managed to convert what appeared to be a true and unprecedented win-win on

trade into a remarkable lose-lose," said Mark Linscott, former U.S. trade negotiator, calling for "cooler heads who understand the value of the relationship" to prevail.

Mr. Juster, also a former U.S. Commerce official who served as Ambassador to India during the first Trump term, told the Council for Foreign Relations that Mr. Trump believes the U.S.-India economic relationship has been "out of balance" for many years. "[Mr.] Modi needed to respond firmly to the new tariffs. But he should also be careful not to paint himself into a corner and to remain open to discussing ways to resolve the trade dispute," he said, expressing the hope that the leaders would meet on the sidelines of the UN General Assembly (UNGA) in September.

U.S. official calls conflict in Ukraine 'Modi's war'

अमेरिकी अधिकारी ने यूक्रेन के संघर्ष को 'मोदी का युद्ध' कहा

- **Trump Trade Advisor accuses Indian officials of 'arrogance' and 'profiteering' from refining**
ट्रंप व्यापार सलाहकार ने भारतीय अधिकारियों पर 'अहंकार' और रिफाइनिंग से 'मुनाफाखोरी' का आरोप लगाया
- **Democrats slam Trump govt. for extra 25% sanctions on India, noting that the Chinese buy more Russian oil**
डेमोक्रेट्स ने ट्रंप सरकार की भारत पर अतिरिक्त 25% प्रतिबंधों की आलोचना की, यह कहते हुए कि चीन अधिक रूसी तेल खरीदता है
- Former officials express hope that situation will be solved at highest levels, possibly through talks
पूर्व अधिकारियों ने आशा व्यक्त की कि स्थिति का समाधान उच्च स्तर पर होगा, संभवतः वार्ता के माध्यम से
- **A day after the U.S. imposed 25% secondary sanctions on Indian goods as a penalty for India's purchases of Russian oil, in addition to the earlier 25% reciprocal tariffs, the Trump administration kept up its tirade, terming the conflict in Ukraine "Modi's war".**
अमेरिका द्वारा भारत की रूसी तेल खरीद पर भारतीय वस्तुओं पर 25% द्वितीयक प्रतिबंध लगाने के एक दिन बाद, और पहले से लगे 25% पारस्परिक टैरिफ के अलावा, ट्रंप प्रशासन ने अपनी आलोचना जारी रखी और यूक्रेन के संघर्ष को "मोदी का युद्ध" कहा।
- The U.S. Opposition Democratic party, however, criticised the move, saying that "singling out India" would hurt the U.S. as well.
हालांकि, अमेरिकी विपक्षी डेमोक्रेटिक पार्टी ने इस कदम की आलोचना की और कहा कि "भारत को अलग-थलग करना" अमेरिका को भी नुकसान पहुंचाएगा।



- Former U.S. officials, including former Ambassador **Kenneth Juster**, expressed hope that the situation would be resolved at the highest levels, potentially through a meeting between **U.S. President Donald Trump** and **Prime Minister Narendra Modi**.
पूर्व अमेरिकी अधिकारियों, जिनमें पूर्व राजदूत **केनेथ जस्टर** भी शामिल हैं, ने आशा व्यक्त की कि स्थिति का समाधान उच्च स्तर पर होगा, संभवतः **अमेरिकी राष्ट्रपति डोनाल्ड ट्रंप** और **प्रधानमंत्री नरेंद्र मोदी** की बैठक के माध्यम से।
- “India can get **25% off the tariffs** right now if they agree to stop buying [Russian] oil and feeding the war machine,” said Mr. Trump’s Trade Advisor **Peter Navarro**, who has been leading the charge on tariffs.
“भारत अभी **25% टैरिफ की छूट** पा सकता है अगर वह [रूसी] तेल खरीदना बंद करने और युद्ध मशीन को ईंधन देना बंद करने पर सहमत होता है,” ट्रंप के व्यापार सलाहकार **पीटर नवारो** ने कहा, जो टैरिफ के मुद्दे का नेतृत्व कर रहे हैं।
- He accused Indian negotiators of falsely claiming that India does not charge high tariffs, and of “arrogance” in refusing to cut oil imports from Russia, while “profiteering” from refining Russian oil in partnership with Russian refiners, a reference to the **Vadinar refinery in Gujarat**.
उन्होंने भारतीय वार्ताकारों पर यह झूठा दावा करने का आरोप लगाया कि भारत उच्च टैरिफ नहीं लगाता है, और रूस से तेल आयात कम करने से इंकार करने में “अहंकार” दिखाने का, जबकि रूसी रिफाइनर्स के साथ साझेदारी में रूसी तेल को रिफाइन करने से “मुनाफाखोरी” करने का, जो **गुजरात के वडिनार रिफाइनरी** का संदर्भ था।

America’s cost अमेरिका की लागत

- “Everybody in America loses because of what India is doing. Consumers and businesses lose, workers lose because India’s high tariffs cost us jobs, income and higher raises. The taxpayers lose because we’ve got to fund Modi’s war.”
“भारत जो कर रहा है उससे अमेरिका में हर कोई हार रहा है। उपभोक्ता और व्यवसाय हार रहे हैं, मजदूर हार रहे हैं क्योंकि भारत के उच्च टैरिफ हमें नौकरियों, आय और उच्च वेतन में नुकसान पहुंचा रहे हैं। करदाता हार रहे हैं क्योंकि हमें मोदी का युद्ध फंड करना पड़ रहा है।”
- Mr. Navarro told the Bloomberg news agency, accusing India of “getting in bed with the authoritarians” like Russia and China.
श्री नवारो ने ब्लूमबर्ग समाचार एजेंसी को बताया, भारत पर रूस और चीन जैसे “सत्तावादियों के साथ बिस्तर में जाने” का आरोप लगाते हुए।
- U.S. Treasury Secretary **Scott Bessent** called India-U.S. ties a “complicated relationship”, despite good ties between Mr. Trump and Mr. Modi, and said that the issue was not just Russian oil purchases but India’s failure to make a deal with the U.S. on trade.
अमेरिकी वित्त सचिव **स्कॉट बेसेंट** ने भारत-अमेरिका संबंधों को “जटिल संबंध” कहा, जबकि ट्रंप और मोदी के बीच अच्छे संबंध हैं, और कहा कि मुद्दा केवल रूसी तेल खरीद नहीं बल्कि अमेरिका के साथ व्यापार पर समझौता न कर पाने का भी है।
- “I thought India could be one of the earlier deals and they kind of tapped us along in terms of the negotiations. Then there is also the aspect of the Russian crude purchases which they’ve been profiteering on,” Mr. Bessent said on Wednesday, where he said the Indian rupee is at “an all-time low” due to recent developments.
• “मुझे लगा भारत शुरुआती सौदों में से एक हो सकता है और उन्होंने हमें बातचीत में बहलाया। फिर रूसी कच्चे तेल की खरीद का पहलू भी है जिस पर वे मुनाफाखोरी कर रहे हैं,” श्री बेसेंट ने बुधवार को कहा, जहां उन्होंने कहा कि हालिया घटनाक्रमों के कारण भारतीय रुपया “अब तक के सबसे निचले स्तर” पर है।
- Democratic lawmakers, however, attacked the Trump government, pointing out that **China buys more Russian oil than India**. In the past month, China has increased its intake of Russian oil even as India decreased its purchases.
हालांकि, डेमोक्रेटिक सांसदों ने ट्रंप सरकार पर हमला किया और कहा कि **चीन भारत से अधिक रूसी तेल खरीदता है**। पिछले महीने में चीन ने रूसी तेल की खरीद बढ़ा दी जबकि भारत ने अपनी खरीद घटा दी।
- “Instead of imposing sanctions on China or others purchasing larger amounts of Russian oil, Trump’s singling out India with tariffs, hurting Americans and sabotaging the U.S.-India relationship in the process. It’s almost like it’s not about Ukraine at all,” the Democrats in the House Foreign Affairs Committee said on X.



“चीन या अन्य देशों पर जो अधिक मात्रा में रूसी तेल खरीद रहे हैं, प्रतिबंध लगाने के बजाय, ट्रंप भारत को टैरिफ के साथ अलग-थलग कर रहे हैं, जिससे अमेरिकियों को नुकसान हो रहा है और अमेरिका-भारत संबंधों को नुकसान पहुंच रहा है। ऐसा लगता है जैसे यह यूक्रेन के बारे में बिल्कुल नहीं है,” प्रतिनिधि सभा की विदेशी मामलों की समिति में डेमोक्रेट्स ने एक्स पर कहा।

- Meanwhile, a number of former U.S. officials who have dealt with India in the past expressed their disappointment with the situation leading to the U.S. slapping **50% tariffs** on Indian goods from **August 27**.

इस बीच, कई पूर्व अमेरिकी अधिकारियों ने, जिन्होंने अतीत में भारत से निपटा है, स्थिति पर निराशा व्यक्त की, जिसके कारण अमेरिका ने **27 अगस्त** से भारतीय वस्तुओं पर **50% टैरिफ** लगाया।

- “Unfortunately, the United States and India have managed to convert what appeared to be a true and unprecedented win-win on trade into a remarkable lose-lose,” said **Mark Linscott**, former U.S. trade negotiator, calling for “cooler heads who understand the value of the relationship” to prevail.

“दुर्भाग्यवश, अमेरिका और भारत ने जो वास्तव में व्यापार में एक अभूतपूर्व जीत-जीत प्रतीत हो रहा था उसे एक उल्लेखनीय हार-हार में बदल दिया है,” पूर्व अमेरिकी व्यापार वार्ताकार **मार्क लिंगस्कॉट** ने कहा, और “ऐसे शांत दिमागों की आवश्यकता बताई जो संबंधों के मूल्य को समझते हैं।”

- Mr. Juster, also a former U.S. Commerce official who served as Ambassador to India during the first Trump term, told the Council for Foreign Relations that Mr. Trump believes the U.S.-India economic relationship has been “out of balance” for many years.

श्री जस्टर, जो एक पूर्व अमेरिकी वाणिज्य अधिकारी भी थे और पहले ट्रंप कार्यकाल के दौरान भारत में राजदूत रहे, ने विदेश संबंध परिषद को बताया कि श्री ट्रंप का मानना है कि अमेरिका-भारत आर्थिक संबंध कई वर्षों से “असंतुलित” रहे हैं।

- “[Mr.] Modi needed to respond firmly to the new tariffs. But he should also be careful not to paint himself into a corner and to remain open to discussing ways to resolve the trade dispute,” he said, expressing the hope that the leaders would meet on the sidelines of the **UN General Assembly (UNGA) in September**.

“[श्री] मोदी को नए टैरिफ का दृढ़ता से जवाब देना चाहिए। लेकिन उन्हें यह भी सावधान रहना चाहिए कि खुद को कोने में न धकेलें और व्यापार विवाद को सुलझाने के तरीकों पर चर्चा के लिए खुले रहें,” उन्होंने कहा, यह आशा व्यक्त करते हुए कि नेता **सितंबर में संयुक्त राष्ट्र महासभा (UNGA)** के मौके पर मिलेंगे।

Sticks and stones



GS II: polity

A protester throws a stone at riot police during a demonstration in **Jakarta, Indonesia**, on Thursday, against allowances for parliament members. Thousands took to the streets over a **monthly housing allowance for MPs**, which was **nearly 10 times Jakarta's minimum wage**. AP



Security agreement, business pacts, bullet train ride on PM's Japan agenda

GS II: India-Japan

Suhasini Haidar
NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his Japanese counterpart, Shigeru Ishiba, will travel together on a bullet train during his two-day visit to Japan from Friday.

In a statement shortly before leaving for Tokyo on Thursday night, Mr. Modi said the visit would "expand the scope and ambition" of economic and investment ties, and "advance cooperation in new and emerging technologies, including AI and Semiconductors".

During the visit, the two Prime Ministers will hold the much-delayed 15th annual summit, and are expected to upgrade the 2008 Declaration on Security Cooperation, including defence hardware purchases, launch an "Economic Security" initiative to build resilient supply chains in areas such as critical minerals and artificial intelligence, and increase Japan's investment



In schedule: During his visit, Narendra Modi will travel by a bullet train to Sendai with Shigeru Ishiba. FILE PHOTO

targets to about \$68 billion.

They will also discuss the India-Japan Indo-Pacific plans for the Quad summit due to be held in India, in the face of growing India-U.S. tensions.

The leaders will attend a business event on the sidelines of the visit, and officials estimate that nearly 100 business-to-business (B2B) agreements are likely to be signed. While bilateral trade between India and Japan is relatively low at about \$22.8 billion, Japan is India's fifth-largest source of foreign direct in-

vestment, with \$43.2 billion cumulative investment up to December 2024.

The two sides are also expected to discuss Mr. Modi's travel from Japan to China to attend the SCO Summit, where he will hold talks with Chinese President Xi Jinping and Russian President Vladimir Putin.

Meeting with diaspora

Mr. Modi will arrive in Tokyo on Friday morning. Mr. Modi is also expected to meet with some members of the Indian diaspora that

number about 54,000 across the country.

At the India-Japan Summit, the two sides will release a joint statement as well as the 2035 Vision Statement to upgrade the 2025 Vision Statement announced by Mr. Modi and then Prime Minister Shinzo Abe a decade ago.

On Saturday, Mr. Modi and Mr. Ishiba will travel by the Shinkansen High Speed Rail Network, or bullet train, to Sendai in Miyagi Prefecture, recreating a ride Mr. Modi took with Abe in 2016. They will visit a semiconductor factory and inspect the Tohoku Shinkansen factory of the East Japan Railway Company, officials said. They will discuss the next steps in the 508-km Mumbai-Ahmedabad Shinkansen project, launched in 2017 with Japanese funding. Japan has been India's largest overseas development aid donor since 1958, and the Shinkansen project, originally billed at \$17 billion, is a major venture for both countries.

Security agreement, business pacts, bullet train ride on PM's Japan agenda

सुरक्षा समझौता, व्यापार समझौते, बुलेट ट्रेन यात्रा प्रधानमंत्री के जापान दौरे के एजेंडे में

Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his Japanese counterpart, **Shigeru Ishiba**, will travel together on a bullet train during his two-day visit to Japan from Friday.



प्रधानमंत्री नरेंद्र मोदी और उनके जापानी समकक्ष शिगेरु इशिबा शुक्रवार से शुरू होने वाले जापान के दो दिवसीय दौरे के दौरान एक साथ बुलेट ट्रेन से यात्रा करेंगे।

- In a statement shortly before leaving for Tokyo on Thursday night, Mr. Modi said the visit would “expand the scope and ambition” of economic and investment ties, and “advance cooperation in new and emerging technologies, including **AI and Semiconductors**”.
गुरुवार रात टोक्यो रवाना होने से ठीक पहले एक बयान में, श्री मोदी ने कहा कि यह दौरा आर्थिक और निवेश संबंधों के “दायरे और महत्वाकांक्षा को बढ़ाएगा”, और “नई और उभरती प्रौद्योगिकियों, जिनमें **एआई और सेमीकंडक्टर्स** शामिल हैं, में सहयोग को आगे बढ़ाएगा।”
- During the visit, the two Prime Ministers will hold the much-delayed **15th annual summit**, and are expected to upgrade the **2008 Declaration on Security Cooperation**, including **defence hardware purchases**, launch an “**Economic Security**” initiative to build **resilient supply chains** in areas such as **critical minerals and artificial intelligence**, and increase Japan’s investment targets to about **\$68 billion**.
दौरे के दौरान, दोनों प्रधानमंत्री लंबे समय से लंबित **15वें वार्षिक शिखर सम्मेलन** का आयोजन करेंगे, और उम्मीद है कि वे **2008 के सुरक्षा सहयोग घोषणा पत्र** को उन्नत करेंगे, जिसमें **रक्षा उपकरण खरीद** शामिल है, “**आर्थिक सुरक्षा**” पहल शुरू करेंगे ताकि **महत्वपूर्ण खनिज और कृत्रिम बुद्धिमत्ता** जैसे क्षेत्रों में **लचीली आपूर्ति श्रृंखलाएँ** बनाई जा सकें, और जापान के निवेश लक्ष्य को लगभग **68 बिलियन डॉलर** तक बढ़ा सकें।
- They will also discuss the **India-Japan Indo-Pacific plans for the Quad summit due to be held in India, in the face of growing India-U.S. tensions**.
वे **भारत-जापान इंडो-पैसिफिक योजनाओं** पर भी चर्चा करेंगे, जो **भारत** में आयोजित होने वाले **क्वाड शिखर सम्मेलन** के लिए है, बढ़ते हुए **भारत-अमेरिका तनाव** के बीच।
- The leaders will attend a **business event** on the sidelines of the visit, and officials estimate that nearly **100 business-to-business (B2B) agreements** are likely to be signed. While **bilateral trade between India and Japan is relatively low at about \$22.8 billion**, Japan is **India’s fifth-largest source of foreign direct investment (Singapore, Mauritius, the United States, the Netherlands, and Japan)**, with **\$43.2 billion** cumulative investment up to **December 2024**.
नेता इस दौरे के दौरान एक **व्यापारिक कार्यक्रम** में भाग लेंगे, और अधिकारियों का अनुमान है कि लगभग **100 व्यापार-से-व्यापार (B2B) समझौते** पर हस्ताक्षर किए जाने की संभावना है। जबकि **भारत और जापान** के बीच द्विपक्षीय व्यापार अपेक्षाकृत कम है, लगभग **22.8 बिलियन डॉलर**, जापान भारत का **प्रत्यक्ष विदेशी निवेश का पाँचवाँ सबसे बड़ा स्रोत** है, जिसके पास **दिसंबर 2024 तक 43.2 बिलियन डॉलर** का कुल निवेश है।
- The two sides are also expected to discuss Mr. Modi’s travel from **Japan to China** to attend the **SCO Summit**, where he will hold talks with **Chinese President Xi Jinping and Russian President Vladimir Putin**.
दोनों पक्षों से यह भी उम्मीद है कि वे श्री मोदी की **जापान से चीन** की यात्रा पर चर्चा करेंगे ताकि वे **एससीओ शिखर सम्मेलन** में भाग ले सकें, जहाँ वे **चीनी राष्ट्रपति शी जिनपिंग और रूसी राष्ट्रपति व्लादिमीर पुतिन** से बातचीत करेंगे।

Meeting with diaspora प्रवासी भारतीयों से मुलाकात

- Mr. Modi will arrive in Tokyo on Friday morning. Mr Modi is also expected to meet with some members of the **Indian diaspora that number about 54,000 across the country**.
श्री मोदी **शुक्रवार सुबह टोक्यो** पहुँचेंगे। श्री मोदी से यह भी उम्मीद है कि वे पूरे देश में लगभग **54,000** की संख्या वाले **भारतीय प्रवासी समुदाय** के कुछ सदस्यों से भी मिलेंगे।
- At the **India-Japan Summit**, the two sides will release a **joint statement** as well as the **2035 Vision Statement** to upgrade the **2025 Vision Statement** announced by Mr. Modi and then Prime Minister **Shinzo Abe** a decade ago.
भारत-जापान शिखर सम्मेलन में, दोनों पक्ष एक **संयुक्त बयान** और साथ ही **2035 विजन स्टेटमेंट** जारी करेंगे ताकि **2025 विजन स्टेटमेंट** को उन्नत किया जा सके, जिसे श्री मोदी और उस समय के प्रधानमंत्री **शिंजो आबे** ने एक दशक पहले घोषित किया था।
- On **Saturday**, Mr. Modi and Mr. Ishiba will travel by the **Shinkansen High Speed Rail Network**, or **bullet train**, to **Sendai in Miyagi Prefecture**, recreating a ride Mr. Modi took



with Abe in 2016. They will visit a semiconductor factory and inspect the Tohoku Shinkansen factory of the East Japan Railway Company, officials said.

शनिवार को, श्री मोदी और श्री इशिबा शिंकानसेन हाई स्पीड रेल नेटवर्क या बुलेट ट्रेन से मियागी प्रीफेक्चर के सेनदाई तक यात्रा करेंगे, जिससे वह यात्रा दोबारा बनाई जाएगी जो श्री मोदी ने 2016 में आबे के साथ की थी। वे एक सेमीकंडक्टर फैक्ट्री का दौरा करेंगे और ईस्ट जापान रेलवे कंपनी की तोहोक् शिंकानसेन फैक्ट्री का निरीक्षण करेंगे, अधिकारियों ने कहा।

- They will discuss the next steps in the **508-km Mumbai-Ahmedabad Shinkansen project**, launched in 2017 with **Japanese funding**. Japan has been India's largest overseas development aid donor since 1958, and the Shinkansen project, originally billed at \$17 billion, is a major venture for both countries.

वे 508-किमी मुंबई-अहमदाबाद शिंकानसेन परियोजना में अगले कदमों पर चर्चा करेंगे, जिसे 2017 में जापानी वित्तपोषण के साथ शुरू किया गया था। जापान 1958 से भारत का सबसे बड़ा विदेशी विकास सहायता दाता रहा है, और शिंकानसेन परियोजना, जिसकी प्रारंभिक लागत 17 बिलियन डॉलर आंकी गई थी, दोनों देशों के लिए एक प्रमुख उपक्रम है।

PATRIOTIC IAS



India, Saudi hold 7th joint defence panel meet in Delhi

GS II: India-Saudi Arabia

Saurabh Trivedi

NEW DELHI

The 7th meeting of the India-Saudi Arabia Joint Committee on Defence Cooperation (JCDC) was held in New Delhi on Thursday.

According to the Ministry of Defence, both sides reaffirmed their commitment to strengthening bilateral defence cooperation and noted the progress made in implementing key decisions from the previous JCDC meeting. India offered to provide training to the Saudi Armed Forces and explored avenues of cooperation in cyber security, IT, disaster management and tactical communications.

The Indian delegation also showcased indigenous defence manufacturing capabilities and proposed opportunities for joint production and equipment partnerships with Saudi Arabia, the Ministry added.

India, Saudi hold 7th joint defence panel meet in Delhi

भारत, सऊदी ने दिल्ली में 7वीं संयुक्त रक्षा समिति की बैठक की

The 7th meeting of the India-Saudi Arabia Joint Committee on Defence Cooperation (JCDC) was held in New Delhi on Thursday. भारत-सऊदी अरब संयुक्त रक्षा सहयोग समिति (JCDC) की 7वीं बैठक गुरुवार को नई दिल्ली में आयोजित हुई।

According to the Ministry of Defence, both sides reaffirmed their commitment to strengthening bilateral defence cooperation and noted the progress made in implementing key decisions from the previous JCDC meeting.

रक्षा मंत्रालय के अनुसार, दोनों पक्षों ने द्विपक्षीय रक्षा सहयोग को मजबूत करने की अपनी प्रतिबद्धता को दोहराया और पिछली JCDC बैठक से लिए गए प्रमुख निर्णयों को लागू करने में हुई प्रगति को नोट किया।

India offered to provide training to the Saudi Armed Forces and explored avenues of cooperation in cyber security, IT, disaster management and tactical communications.

भारत ने सऊदी सशस्त्र बलों को प्रशिक्षण प्रदान करने की पेशकश की और साइबर सुरक्षा, आईटी, आपदा प्रबंधन और सामरिक संचार में सहयोग के अवसर तलाशे।

The Indian delegation also showcased indigenous defence manufacturing capabilities and proposed opportunities for joint production and equipment partnerships with Saudi Arabia, the Ministry added.

भारतीय प्रतिनिधिमंडल ने स्वदेशी रक्षा विनिर्माण क्षमताओं का प्रदर्शन भी किया और सऊदी अरब के साथ संयुक्त उत्पादन और उपकरण साझेदारी के अवसरों का प्रस्ताव रखा, मंत्रालय ने जोड़ा।

TOPICS COVERED (GS Paper III: Polity, Governance, And International Relations)

1. Five ISRO technologies transferred to private firms

पांच इसरो प्रौद्योगिकियां निजी कंपनियों को हस्तांतरित

2. Industrial growth recovers to four-month high of 3.5% on broad-based growth

औद्योगिक वृद्धि 3.5% की चार माह की उच्चतम स्तर पर व्यापक वृद्धि के साथ पुनः प्राप्त

3. Nearly 60% of MGNREGS budget already spent in first 5 months of financial year



वित्तीय वर्ष के पहले 5 महीनों में मनरेगा बजट का लगभग 60% पहले ही खर्च हो चुका है

4. **Beyond science fiction: artificial wombs and real progress of fertility treatments**

विज्ञान कथा से परे: कृत्रिम गर्भाशय और प्रजनन उपचारों की वास्तविक प्रगति

5. **War cry**

युद्धघोष

6. **Déjà vu**

डेझा वू

7. **India's demographic dividend as a time bomb**

भारत का जनसांख्यिकीय लाभांश एक समय बम के रूप में

8. **Building health for 1.4 billion Indians**

1.4 अरब भारतीयों के लिए स्वास्थ्य निर्माण

9. **Should States be compensated for revenue loss from GST reforms?**

क्या राज्यों को जीएसटी सुधारों से होने वाले राजस्व नुकसान की भरपाई की जानी चाहिए?

10. **Which sectors are worst hit by tariffs?**

कौन से क्षेत्र टैरिफ से सबसे ज्यादा प्रभावित हैं?

11. **Why U.S. is ending duty-free imports of low-value goods?**

12. **अमेरिका कम-मूल्य वाले सामानों के ड्यूटी-फ्री आयात को क्यों समाप्त कर रहा है?**



Five ISRO technologies transferred to private firms

GS III: S&T

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Indian National Space Promotion and Authorization Centre (IN-SPACe) has facilitated the transfer of five technologies developed by ISRO to five Indian companies.

IN-SPACe which is the single window agency for all space sector activities of private entities, said that the transfers are aimed at driving commercialisation, strengthening self-reliance, reducing imports, and enabling wider applications of space technologies in sectors such as automotive, biomedical, and industrial manufacturing.

For biomedical use

It added that one of the technologies, the Low Temperature Co-Fired Ceramic (LTCC) Multi-Chip



IN-SPACe says the transfer is aimed at enabling wider applications of space technologies in sectors such as automotive, biomedical, and industrial manufacturing. REUTERS

Module, developed by Space Application Centre (SAC), enables the integration of multiple semiconductor chips into a single compact module.

This has been acquired by M/s Voltix Semicon Pvt. Ltd., Pune, for biomedical use, particularly in RT-PCR kits requiring high-volume

production. Voltix currently depends on imports for this technology; the Transfer of Technology (ToT) will enhance domestic capability and self-reliance.

For solar panel bonding

Another, the RTV Silicone Single-Part Adhesive (SIL-CEM R9), developed by

Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre (VSSC), is a room-temperature curable adhesive. It has been acquired by M/s Crest Speciality Resins Pvt. Ltd., Ahmedabad, for solar panel bonding.

"At present, this adhesive is imported; the ToT will ensure local availability, reduce dependence on imports, and boost indigenisation," IN-SPACe said.

For industrial use

The other three technologies that were transferred to industries are: Azista Composites Pvt. Ltd., Hyderabad - Film Adhesives EFA 1753 and EFA 1752 developed by VSSC; Ananth Technologies Pvt. Ltd., Hyderabad - 30W HMC DC-DC Converter developed by UR Rao Satellite Centre (URSC); and Pushpak Aerospace India Pvt. Ltd., Bengaluru - Anodisa-

tion of 3D-printed Al-10Si-Mg alloy developed by URSC.

"These transfers highlight the growing capability and confidence of Indian industry. While some of these technologies will directly substitute imports, others will unlock applications well beyond the space sector. The true impact will be realised when industry scales them up for widespread use. IN-SPACe, together with ISRO and NewSpace India Limited, will remain a partner in enabling that journey," Dr. Pawan Goenka, chairman, IN-SPACe, said. Rajeev Jyoti, director, Technical Directorate, IN-SPACe, said that with the transfer of the five Technology Transfer Agreements (TTAs), the total number of TTAs executed with industries has reached 98.

Five ISRO technologies transferred to private firms पांच इसरो प्रौद्योगिकियां निजी कंपनियों को हस्तांतरित

The Indian National Space Promotion and Authorization Centre (IN-SPACe) has facilitated the transfer of five technologies developed by ISRO to five Indian companies.

भारतीय राष्ट्रीय अंतरिक्ष संवर्धन और प्राधिकरण केंद्र (IN-SPACe) ने ISRO द्वारा विकसित पांच प्रौद्योगिकियों को पांच भारतीय कंपनियों को हस्तांतरित करने की सुविधा प्रदान की है।

- IN-SPACe which is the single window agency for all space sector activities of private entities, said that the transfers are aimed at driving commercialisation, strengthening self-reliance, reducing imports, and enabling wider applications of space technologies in sectors such as automotive, biomedical, and industrial manufacturing.

IN-SPACe, जो निजी संस्थाओं की सभी अंतरिक्ष क्षेत्र गतिविधियों के लिए एकल खिड़की एजेंसी है, ने कहा कि इन हस्तांतरणों का उद्देश्य व्यावसायीकरण को बढ़ावा देना, आत्मनिर्भरता को मजबूत करना, आयात कम करना, और अंतरिक्ष प्रौद्योगिकियों के व्यापक उपयोग को सक्षम करना है जैसे कि ऑटोमोबाइल, बायोमेडिकल और औद्योगिक विनिर्माण क्षेत्रों में।

For biomedical use

जैव-चिकित्सीय उपयोग के लिए



- It added that one of the technologies, the **Low Temperature Co-Fired Ceramic (LTCC) Multi-Chip Module**, developed by **Space Application Centre (SAC)**, enables the integration of multiple semiconductor chips into a single compact module.
इसमें जोड़ा गया कि एक प्रौद्योगिकी, **लो टेम्परेचर को-फायर्ड सेरामिक (LTCC) मल्टी-चिप मॉड्यूल**, जो **स्पेस एप्लिकेशन सेंटर (SAC)** द्वारा विकसित की गई है, कई सेमीकंडक्टर चिप्स को एकल कॉम्पैक्ट मॉड्यूल में एकीकृत करने में सक्षम बनाती है।
- This has been acquired by **M/s Voltix Semicon Pvt. Ltd., Pune**, for biomedical use, particularly in **RT-PCR kits** requiring high-volume production. Voltix currently depends on imports for this technology; the **Transfer of Technology (ToT)** will enhance domestic capability and self-reliance.
इसे **एम/एस वोल्टिक्स सेमिकॉन प्राइवेट लिमिटेड, पुणे** द्वारा जैव-चिकित्सीय उपयोग के लिए अधिग्रहित किया गया है, विशेष रूप से **आरटी-पीसीआर किट्स** में जो उच्च मात्रा के उत्पादन की आवश्यकता रखते हैं। वोल्टिक्स वर्तमान में इस प्रौद्योगिकी के लिए आयात पर निर्भर है; **प्रौद्योगिकी हस्तांतरण (ToT)** घरेलू क्षमता और आत्मनिर्भरता को बढ़ाएगा।

For solar panel bonding सौर पैनल बंधन के लिए

- Another, the **RTV Silicone Single-Part Adhesive (SILCEM R9)**, developed by **Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre (VSSC)**, is a room-temperature curable adhesive. It has been acquired by **M/s Crest Speciality Resins Pvt. Ltd., Ahmedabad**, for solar panel bonding.
एक अन्य, **आरटीवी सिलिकोन सिंगल-पार्ट एडहेसिव (SILCHEM R9)**, जो **विक्रम साराभाई अंतरिक्ष केंद्र (VSSC)** द्वारा विकसित किया गया है, एक कमरे के तापमान पर सख्त होने वाला चिपकाने वाला पदार्थ है। इसे **एम/एस क्रेस्ट स्पेशलिटी रेज़िन्स प्राइवेट लिमिटेड, अहमदाबाद** द्वारा सौर पैनल बंधन के लिए अधिग्रहित किया गया है।
- “At present, this adhesive is imported; the **ToT** will ensure local availability, reduce dependence on imports, and boost indigenisation,” **IN-SPACE** said.
“वर्तमान में, यह चिपकाने वाला पदार्थ आयात किया जाता है; **ToT** स्थानीय उपलब्धता सुनिश्चित करेगा, आयात पर निर्भरता को कम करेगा और **स्वदेशीकरण** को बढ़ावा देगा,” **IN-SPACE** ने कहा।

For industrial use औद्योगिक उपयोग के लिए

- The other three technologies that were transferred to industries are: **Azista Composites Pvt. Ltd., Hyderabad – Film Adhesives EFA 1753 and EFA 1752 developed by VSSC; Ananth Technologies Pvt. Ltd., Hyderabad – 30W HMC DC-DC Converter developed by UR Rao Satellite Centre (URSC); and Pushpak Aerospace India Pvt. Ltd., Bengaluru – Anodisation of 3D-printed Al-10SiMg alloy developed by URSC.**
अन्य तीन प्रौद्योगिकियां जो उद्योगों को हस्तांतरित की गई हैं, वे हैं: **अज़िस्ता कॉम्पोजिट्स प्राइवेट लिमिटेड, हैदराबाद – फिल्म एडहेसिव्स EFA 1753 और EFA 1752 (VSSC द्वारा विकसित); अनंत टेक्नोलॉजीज प्राइवेट लिमिटेड, हैदराबाद – 30W HMC DC-DC कन्वर्टर (यू आर राव सैटेलाइट सेंटर URSC द्वारा विकसित); और पुष्पक एयरोस्पेस इंडिया प्राइवेट लिमिटेड, बेंगलुरु – 3D-मुद्रित Al-10SiMg मिश्र धातु का एनोडाइजेशन (URSC द्वारा विकसित)।**
- “These transfers highlight the growing capability and confidence of Indian industry. While some of these technologies will directly substitute imports, others will unlock applications well beyond the space sector. The true impact will be realised when industry scales them up for widespread use. **IN-SPACE**, together with **ISRO** and **NewSpace India Limited**, will remain a partner in enabling that journey,” **Dr. Pawan Goenka, chairman, IN-SPACE**, said.
“ये हस्तांतरण भारतीय उद्योग की बढ़ती क्षमता और विश्वास को उजागर करते हैं। जबकि इनमें से कुछ प्रौद्योगिकियां सीधे आयात का स्थान लेंगी, अन्य अंतरिक्ष क्षेत्र से कहीं आगे के अनुप्रयोगों को खोलेंगी। वास्तविक प्रभाव तब महसूस किया जाएगा जब उद्योग उन्हें व्यापक उपयोग के लिए बढ़ाएगा। **IN-SPACE**, **ISRO** और **न्यूस्पेस इंडिया लिमिटेड** के साथ मिलकर इस यात्रा को सक्षम करने में भागीदार बना रहेगा,” **डॉ. पवन गोयंका, अध्यक्ष, IN-SPACE**, ने कहा।
- Rajeev Jyoti, director, Technical Directorate, IN-SPACE**, said that with the transfer of the five **Technology Transfer Agreements (TTAs)**, the total number of TTAs executed with



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industries has reached **98**.

राजीव ज्योति, निदेशक, तकनीकी निदेशालय, IN-SPACE, ने कहा कि पांच प्रौद्योगिकी हस्तांतरण समझौतों (TTAs) के हस्तांतरण के साथ, उद्योगों के साथ निष्पादित TTAs की कुल संख्या **98** तक पहुंच गई है।

PATRIOTIC IAS

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Industrial growth recovers to four-month high of 3.5% on broad-based growth

GS III: Industries

The Hindu Bureau

NEW DELHI

Industrial growth jumped to a four-month high of 3.5% in July 2025, driven by a broad-based recovery in the manufacturing, electricity, capital, and consumer goods sectors.

However, the Index of Industrial Production for July 2025, released by the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation on Thursday, grew at a slower pace than the 5% growth seen in July 2024.

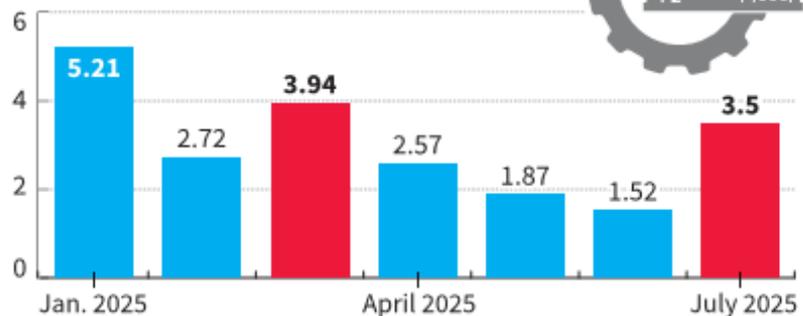
The manufacturing sector grew at a six-month high of 5.4% in July 2025, compared to 4.7% in July 2024. The electricity sector saw growth returning in July 2025 after two months of contraction.

It grew 0.6% in July 2025, compared to 7.9% in July last year.

The mining sector (-7.2%), however, continued to contract in July

Industrial recovery

The Index of Industrial Production growth rate in July stood at 3.5%, a four-month high



SOURCE: MINISTRY OF STATISTICS & PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION

2025, its fourth consecutive month of contraction.

According to Madan Sabnavis, chief economist at the Bank of Baroda, the sector's relatively poor performance can be attributed to the monsoon as well as to subdued demand.

Capital goods sector

The capital goods sector grew by 5% in July, on top of an already high base of 11.7% in July 2024.

"Overall, the metals and machinery segments have

done well, with basic metals, fabricated metals, and electric machinery registering double digit growth," he said.

"Non-metallic mineral products too registered an impressive growth of 9.5%. This is a positive sign for investment taking place in the economy."

The consumer durables sector grew at a seven-month high of 7.7% in July, while the consumer non-durables sector grew at an eight-month high of 0.5%.

Industrial growth recovers to four-month high of 3.5% on



broad-based growth

औद्योगिक वृद्धि 3.5% की चार माह की उच्चतम स्तर पर व्यापक वृद्धि के साथ पुनः प्राप्त

Industrial growth jumped to a four-month high of 3.5% in July 2025, driven by a broad-based recovery in the manufacturing, electricity, capital, and consumer goods sectors.

औद्योगिक वृद्धि जुलाई 2025 में 3.5% की चार माह की उच्चतम स्तर पर पहुँच गई, जिसे विनिर्माण, बिजली, पूंजी और उपभोक्ता वस्तुओं के क्षेत्रों में व्यापक पुनर्प्राप्ति से बल मिला।

- However, the **Index of Industrial Production (IIP)** for July 2025, released by the **Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation** on Thursday, grew at a slower pace than the 5% growth seen in July 2024.
हालांकि, सांख्यिकी और कार्यक्रम कार्यान्वयन मंत्रालय द्वारा गुरुवार को जारी जुलाई 2025 के औद्योगिक उत्पादन सूचकांक (IIP) में वृद्धि की गति जुलाई 2024 में दर्ज 5% वृद्धि से धीमी रही।
- The **manufacturing sector** grew at a six-month high of 5.4% in July 2025, compared to 4.7% in July 2024. The **electricity sector** saw growth returning in July 2025 after two months of contraction.
विनिर्माण क्षेत्र ने जुलाई 2025 में 5.4% की छह माह की उच्चतम वृद्धि दर्ज की, जबकि जुलाई 2024 में यह 4.7% थी। बिजली क्षेत्र में दो माह की गिरावट के बाद जुलाई 2025 में वृद्धि दर्ज हुई।
- It grew 0.6% in July 2025, compared to 7.9% in July last year.
जुलाई 2025 में यह 0.6% बढ़ा, जबकि पिछले वर्ष जुलाई में यह 7.9% था।
- The **mining sector (-7.2%)**, however, continued to contract in July 2025, its fourth consecutive month of contraction.
हालांकि, खनन क्षेत्र (-7.2%) ने जुलाई 2025 में लगातार चौथे माह गिरावट दर्ज की।
- According to **Madan Sabnavis**, chief economist at the **Bank of Baroda**, the sector's relatively poor performance can be attributed to the **monsoon** as well as to subdued demand.
बैंक ऑफ बड़ौदा के मुख्य अर्थशास्त्री मदन सबनविस के अनुसार, इस क्षेत्र के अपेक्षाकृत कमजोर प्रदर्शन का कारण मानसून और सुस्त मांग है।

Capital goods sector

पूंजीगत वस्तु क्षेत्र

- The **capital goods sector** grew by 5% in July, on top of an already high base of 11.7% in July 2024.
पूंजीगत वस्तु क्षेत्र ने जुलाई में 5% की वृद्धि दर्ज की, जबकि जुलाई 2024 में पहले से ही उच्च आधार 11.7% था।
- “Overall, the metals and machinery segments have done well, with **basic metals, fabricated metals, and electric machinery** registering double digit growth,” he said.
उन्होंने कहा, “कुल मिलाकर, धातु और मशीनरी खंडों ने अच्छा प्रदर्शन किया है, जहाँ मूल धातुएँ, निर्मित धातुएँ और विद्युत मशीनरी ने दो अंकों की वृद्धि दर्ज की है।”
- “**Non-metallic mineral products** too registered an impressive growth of 9.5%. This is a positive sign for investment taking place in the economy.”
“गैर-धात्विक खनिज उत्पादों ने भी 9.5% की प्रभावशाली वृद्धि दर्ज की है। यह अर्थव्यवस्था में हो रहे निवेश के लिए सकारात्मक संकेत है।”
- The **consumer durables sector** grew at a seven-month high of 7.7% in July, while the **consumer non-durables sector** grew at an eight-month high of 0.5%.
उपभोक्ता टिकाऊ वस्तु क्षेत्र ने जुलाई में 7.7% की सात माह की उच्चतम वृद्धि दर्ज की, जबकि उपभोक्ता गैर-टिकाऊ वस्तु क्षेत्र ने 0.5% की आठ माह की उच्चतम वृद्धि दर्ज की।

Eight Core Industries (with weights in IIP)

1. **Refinery Products** – 28.04%
2. **Electricity** – 19.85%



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3. **Steel** – 17.92%
4. **Coal** – 10.33%
5. **Crude Oil** – 8.98%
6. **Natural Gas** – 6.88%
7. **Cement** – 5.37%
8. **Fertilizers** – 2.63%

→ Together, these **8 industries** have **40.27% weight** in IIP.

PATRIOTIC IAS



Nearly 60% of MGNREGS budget already spent in first 5 months of financial year

GS III: Employment

Sobhana K. Nair

NEW DELHI

Nearly 60% of the budget allocated for the Union government's flagship rural employment programme – Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS) – has been exhausted with a month still left to go for the second quarter to end. As per the data available with the Ministry of Rural Development, ₹51,521 crore out of ₹86,000 crore earmarked in the Union Budget for 2025-26 has been spent till date.

The Finance Ministry recently capped spending under the programme at 60% of its annual allocation for the first half of the financial year. The government thus will be left with



As much as 38% of the budget went into covering the pending liability from 2024-25.

₹79 crore under the programme for September. There are 12.15 crore active workers who rely on the scheme to supplement their household's income.

Nearly 38% of the budget allocated in 2025-26 went into covering the pending liability from the previous financial year of 2024-25.

In reply to a question in the Lok Sabha posed by Trinamool Congress MP Mahua Moitra on August 5, the Ministry said that as on April 1, an amount of ₹17,259.56 crore was pending as wage liabilities and ₹15,641 crore as material liabilities from 2024-25. The expenditure in the corresponding period of that financial year was ₹61,829 crore, leading to a severe shortfall. No additional funds were allocated to the programme.

According to sources, top officials of the Ministry of Rural Development have again reached out to the Finance Ministry asking for a revised allocation, but sources said that so far there were no indications from the Finance Ministry on allotting additional funds.

Nearly 60% of MGNREGS budget already spent in first 5 months of financial year

वित्तीय वर्ष के पहले 5 महीनों में मनरेगा बजट का लगभग 60% पहले ही खर्च हो चुका है



- Nearly **60%** of the budget allocated for the Union government's flagship rural employment programme — **Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS)** — has been exhausted with a month still left to go for the second quarter to end.
केंद्र सरकार की प्रमुख ग्रामीण रोजगार योजना — **महात्मा गांधी राष्ट्रीय ग्रामीण रोजगार गारंटी योजना (मनरेगा)** — के लिए आवंटित बजट का लगभग **60%** खत्म हो चुका है जबकि दूसरी तिमाही के खत्म होने में अभी एक महीना बाकी है।
- As per the data available with the **Ministry of Rural Development**, **₹51,521 crore** out of **₹86,000 crore** earmarked in the **Union Budget 2025-26** has been spent till date.
ग्रामीण विकास मंत्रालय के पास उपलब्ध आंकड़ों के अनुसार, **₹86,000 करोड़** में से **₹51,521 करोड़** जो **केंद्रीय बजट 2025-26** में निर्धारित किए गए थे, अब तक खर्च किए जा चुके हैं।
- The **Finance Ministry** recently capped spending under the programme at **60%** of its annual allocation for the first half of the financial year.
वित्त मंत्रालय ने हाल ही में इस कार्यक्रम के अंतर्गत खर्च को वित्तीय वर्ष की पहली छमाही के लिए वार्षिक आवंटन का **60%** तक सीमित कर दिया।
- The government thus will be left with **₹79 crore** under the programme for **September**.
इस प्रकार सरकार के पास **सितंबर** के लिए इस कार्यक्रम के अंतर्गत केवल **₹79 करोड़** शेष रह जाएंगे।
- There are **12.15 crore** active workers who rely on the scheme to supplement their household's income.
इस योजना पर अपने घर की आय को पूरा करने के लिए **12.15 करोड़** सक्रिय श्रमिक निर्भर हैं।
- Nearly **38%** of the budget allocated in **2025-26** went into covering the pending liability from the previous financial year of **2024-25**.
2025-26 में आवंटित बजट का लगभग **38%** पिछले वित्तीय वर्ष **2024-25** की बकाया देनदारियों को पूरा करने में चला गया।
- In reply to a question in the **Lok Sabha** posed by Trinamool Congress MP **Mahua Moitra** on **August 5**, the Ministry said that as on **April 1**, an amount of **₹17,259.56 crore** was pending as wage liabilities and **₹15,641 crore** as material liabilities from **2024-25**.
लोकसभा में **5 अगस्त** को तृणमूल कांग्रेस सांसद **महुआ मोइत्रा** द्वारा पूछे गए प्रश्न के उत्तर में, मंत्रालय ने कहा कि **1 अप्रैल** तक, **2024-25** से **₹17,259.56 करोड़** मजदूरी बकाया और **₹15,641 करोड़** सामग्री देनदारियों के रूप में लंबित थे।
- The expenditure in the corresponding period of that financial year was **₹61,829 crore**, leading to a severe shortfall. No additional funds were allocated to the programme.
उस वित्तीय वर्ष की इसी अवधि में खर्च **₹61,829 करोड़** था, जिससे गंभीर कमी आई। कार्यक्रम के लिए कोई अतिरिक्त धन आवंटित नहीं किया गया।
- According to sources, top officials of the **Ministry of Rural Development** have again reached out to the **Finance Ministry** asking for a revised allocation, but sources said that so far there were no indications from the **Finance Ministry** on allotting additional funds.
स्रोतों के अनुसार, **ग्रामीण विकास मंत्रालय** के शीर्ष अधिकारियों ने फिर से **वित्त मंत्रालय** से संशोधित आवंटन की मांग की है, लेकिन सूत्रों ने कहा कि अब तक **वित्त मंत्रालय** की ओर से अतिरिक्त धन आवंटित करने के कोई संकेत नहीं मिले हैं।



Beyond science fiction: artificial wombs and real progress of fertility treatments

GS III: S&T

Gita Aravamudan

According to reports that surfaced on the internet last week, a Chinese firm announced plans to create the world's first pregnancy robot with an artificial womb. It was fake news, and all the major news outlets bought it. Because it made flashy sci-fi headlines especially in a world where anything seems possible with omnipresent Artificial intelligence (AI).

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My book on surrogacy, *Baby Makers*, which came out in 2016 had a chapter called *Virgin Birth and Womb Banks*, where I discussed the possibilities of sexless reproduction and artificial wombs which could be enabled by cutting edge technology.

It sounded then like science fiction. And it still remains in the realm of science fiction. But though we are nowhere near producing an artificial womb which can gestate and nurture a human being, the research in this field has been on-going for quite a few years now.

More than 10 years ago when



Though we are nowhere near producing an artificial womb which can gestate and nurture a human being, the research in this field has been on-going for quite a few years now. ISTOCKPHOTO

I was researching my book, I read about Hung-Ching Liu, Professor of Reproductive Medicine at Cornell University, U.S., who had engineered endometrial tissue by prompting cells to grow in an artificial uterus. Apparently, he was also able to successfully implant and grow the embryo of a mouse. In another experiment, Liu used cultured cells collected from a woman's womb and created an artificial womb using a scaffolding. Inside this womb he planted fertilised embryos left over from IVF cycles. In six days, the eggs implanted in it just as they would in a real womb. But his experiment had to end just 14 days later as

researchers were not allowed to grow foetuses in the lab for more than 14 days. In other parts of the world too, exciting research was going on in this field. In Japan, goat foetuses were grown in a prototype womb. In New South Wales, an artificial womb designed to give birth to live sharks was successfully tested.

Womb replacement surgery Meanwhile, by 2014, womb replacement surgery had become a reality. Five women from Sweden and 11 from the U.K. had their wombs replaced. Two of the women had wombs donated by their mothers.

The first baby born from a

womb transplant was in Sweden in 2014. Since then, around 135 such transplants have been carried out in over a dozen countries, including the United States, China, France, Germany, India, and Turkiye. Approximately 65 babies have been born as a result of such transplants. Galaxy Care Hospital in India has also achieved success with uterine transplants and has delivered babies from transplanted wombs.

As of now, artificial wombs are being used mainly to nurture preterm babies. The babies are placed in bio bags and float in a liquid mimicking the amniotic fluid found in natural wombs. An artificial placenta, which is connected to the umbilical cord, provides oxygen and nutrients.

Experiments are also on to try and produce eggs and sperm from stem cells.

(Gita Aravamudan is an author and independent journalist who writes on gender issues. gita.aravamudan@gmail.com)

For feedback and suggestions for 'Science', please write to science@thehindu.co.in with the subject 'Daily page'

Beyond science fiction: artificial wombs and real progress of fertility treatments

विज्ञान कथा से परे: कृत्रिम गर्भाशय और प्रजनन उपचारों की वास्तविक प्रगति

- According to reports that surfaced on the internet last week, a Chinese firm announced plans to create the world's first pregnancy robot with an artificial womb. पिछले सप्ताह इंटरनेट पर सामने आई रिपोर्ट्स के अनुसार, एक चीनी कंपनी ने दुनिया का पहला गर्भावस्था रोबोट कृत्रिम गर्भाशय के साथ बनाने की योजना की घोषणा की।
- It was fake news, and all the major news outlets bought it. यह फेक न्यूज़ थी, और सभी प्रमुख समाचार चैनलों ने इसे सच मान लिया।
- Because it made flashy sci-fi headlines especially in a world where anything seems possible with omnipresent Artificial intelligence (AI). क्योंकि इसने साइंस-फिक्शन जैसी सुर्खियाँ बटोरीं, विशेषकर एक ऐसी दुनिया में जहाँ सर्वव्यापी कृत्रिम बुद्धिमत्ता (AI) के साथ सब कुछ संभव लगता है।



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- My book on surrogacy, Baby Makers, which came out in 2016 had a chapter called Virgin Birth and Womb Banks, where I discussed the possibilities of sexless reproduction and artificial wombs which could be enabled by cutting edge technology.
मेरी ससुरोगेसी पर किताब Baby Makers (2016) में एक अध्याय था Virgin Birth और Womb Banks, जहाँ मैंने बिना यौन संबंध प्रजनन और कृत्रिम गर्भाशय की संभावनाओं पर चर्चा की थी जो अत्याधुनिक तकनीक से संभव हो सकती हैं।
- It sounded then like science fiction. And it still remains in the realm of science fiction.
तब यह विज्ञान कथा जैसा लगा था। और यह अभी भी विज्ञान कथा के दायरे में ही है।
- But though we are nowhere near producing an artificial womb which can gestate and nurture a human being, the research in this field has been on-going for quite a few years now.
लेकिन भले ही हम अभी तक ऐसा कृत्रिम गर्भाशय बनाने के करीब नहीं हैं जो एक मानव शिशु को धारण और पोषित कर सके, इस क्षेत्र में कई वर्षों से शोध चल रहा है।
- More than 10 years ago when I was researching my book, I read about Hung-Ching Liu, Professor of Reproductive Medicine at Cornell University, U.S., who had engineered endometrial tissue by prompting cells to grow in an artificial uterus.
10 साल से भी पहले जब मैं अपनी किताब पर शोध कर रही थी, मैंने Hung-Ching Liu, Cornell University (U.S.) के Reproductive Medicine प्रोफेसर के बारे में पढ़ा, जिन्होंने कृत्रिम गर्भाशय में कोशिकाओं को उगाकर एंडोमेट्रियल ऊतक तैयार किया था।
- Apparently, he was also able to successfully implant and grow the embryo of a mouse.
स्पष्ट रूप से, उन्होंने सफलतापूर्वक चूहे का भ्रूण प्रत्यारोपित कर उसे विकसित भी किया।
- In another experiment, Liu used cultured cells collected from a woman's womb and created an artificial womb using a scaffolding.
एक अन्य प्रयोग में, Liu ने एक महिला के गर्भाशय से लिए गए कोशिकाओं का उपयोग किया और एक कृत्रिम गर्भाशय बनाया।
- Inside this womb he planted fertilised embryos left over from IVF cycles.
इस गर्भाशय के भीतर उन्होंने IVF साइकिल से बचे हुए निषेचित भ्रूण प्रत्यारोपित किए।
- In six days, the eggs implanted in it just as they would in a real womb.
छह दिनों में, अंडाणु उसी तरह प्रत्यारोपित हुए जैसे वे एक वास्तविक गर्भाशय में होते हैं।
- But his experiment had to end just 14 days later as researchers were not allowed to grow foetuses in the lab for more than 14 days.
लेकिन उनका प्रयोग 14 दिनों बाद रोकना पड़ा क्योंकि शोधकर्ताओं को प्रयोगशाला में भ्रूण को 14 दिनों से अधिक बढ़ाने की अनुमति नहीं थी।
- In other parts of the world too, exciting research was going on in this field.
दुनिया के अन्य हिस्सों में भी इस क्षेत्र में रोमांचक शोध चल रहे थे।
- In Japan, goat foetuses were grown in a prototype womb.
जापान में बकरी के भ्रूण एक प्रोटोटाइप गर्भाशय में विकसित किए गए।
- In New South Wales, an artificial womb designed to give birth to live sharks was successfully tested.
न्यू साउथ वेल्स में, जीवित शार्क को जन्म देने के लिए डिज़ाइन किए गए एक कृत्रिम गर्भाशय का सफलतापूर्वक परीक्षण किया गया।

Womb replacement surgery

गर्भाशय प्रतिस्थापन शल्य चिकित्सा

- Meanwhile, by 2014, womb replacement surgery had become a reality.
इसी बीच, 2014 तक, गर्भाशय प्रतिस्थापन सर्जरी वास्तविकता बन चुकी थी।
- Five women from Sweden and 11 from the U.K. had their wombs replaced.
स्वीडन की 5 महिलाओं और U.K. की 11 महिलाओं के गर्भाशय प्रतिस्थापित किए गए।



- Two of the women had wombs donated by their mothers.
इनमें से 2 महिलाओं को उनकी माताओं द्वारा दान किए गए गर्भाशय प्रत्यारोपित किए गए।
- The first baby born from a
पहला शिशु जन्मा एक...

Womb Transplants and Artificial Wombs गर्भाशय प्रत्यारोपण और कृत्रिम गर्भाशय

- Womb transplant was in **Sweden in 2014**.
गर्भाशय प्रत्यारोपण पहली बार स्वीडन में 2014 में हुआ था।
- Since then, around **135 such transplants** have been carried out in over a dozen countries, including the **United States, China, France, Germany, India, and Turkiye**.
तब से अब तक 135 ऐसे प्रत्यारोपण दर्जनभर से अधिक देशों में किए गए हैं, जिनमें संयुक्त राज्य अमेरिका, चीन, फ्रांस, जर्मनी, भारत और तुर्की शामिल हैं।
- Approximately **65 babies** have been born as a result of such transplants.
लगभग 65 शिशुओं का जन्म ऐसे प्रत्यारोपणों के परिणामस्वरूप हुआ है।
- **Galaxy Care Hospital in India** has also achieved success with uterine transplants and has delivered babies from transplanted wombs.
भारत के गैलेक्सी केयर अस्पताल ने भी गर्भाशय प्रत्यारोपण में सफलता हासिल की है और प्रत्यारोपित गर्भाशय से शिशुओं का जन्म कराया है।
- As of now, **artificial wombs** are being used mainly to nurture **preterm babies**.
वर्तमान में, कृत्रिम गर्भाशय मुख्य रूप से अविकसित शिशुओं को पोषण देने के लिए उपयोग किए जा रहे हैं।
- The babies are placed in **bio bags** and float in a liquid mimicking the **amniotic fluid** found in natural wombs.
शिशुओं को बायो बैग्स में रखा जाता है और वे एक तरल में तैरते हैं जो प्राकृतिक गर्भाशय में पाए जाने वाले एमनियोटिक द्रव की नकल करता है।
- An **artificial placenta**, which is connected to the **umbilical cord**, provides **oxygen and nutrients**.
एक कृत्रिम प्लेसेंटा, जो नाल से जुड़ा होता है, ऑक्सीजन और पोषक तत्व प्रदान करता है।
- Experiments are also on to try and produce **eggs and sperm from stem cells**.
प्रयोग भी जारी हैं जिनमें स्टेम कोशिकाओं से अंडाणु और शुक्राणु बनाने का प्रयास किया जा रहा है।



War cry

In Bihar, the electoral process itself
is an election issue

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi's 'Vote Adhikar Yatra' in Bihar is drawing crowds and is turning out to be a platform for Opposition unity. In 16 days, the campaign would cover 1,300 kilometres across 20 districts and is to conclude in Patna on September 1. On August 27, the Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, M.K. Stalin, joined Mr. Gandhi, RJD leader Tejashwi Yadav and CPI-ML leader Dipankar Bhattacharya in Muzaffarpur. Mr. Stalin has accused the BJP of turning the Election Commission of India (ECI) into a puppet. NCP leader Sharad Pawar, SP leader Akhilesh Yadav, senior leaders of the TMC and Left parties will be in Patna on the concluding day. Its merits apart, the allegation that an ECI scheme favours the BJP and disadvantages the Opposition has rattled India's political landscape. This alleged "vote chori (vote theft)" has become the Opposition's central rallying cry. Mr. Gandhi's speeches consistently accuse the BJP of "manipulating institutions" and using the ECI as a puppet for its political ends. The Opposition has long been complaining about various aspects of the electoral process that have become less transparent and more partisan. Political battles should have been on the issues of governance and livelihoods, and not on the integrity of the elections at all.

The Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls in Bihar and the demonstrable loopholes in electoral rolls, exposed by Mr. Gandhi through an analysis of one Assembly constituency in Karnataka, have given the Opposition allegation a strong handle. The ECI, through its conduct and responses, has added credence to the allegations. It has claimed that over 98% of the voters in the existing list have submitted an enrolment form as required in the Bihar SIR. Around 65 lakh names from the previous list have been removed from the draft list published. It took an order by the Supreme Court for the ECI to accept the Aadhaar card as an acceptable document for establishing identity. Mr. Gandhi alleges that the names being removed are predominantly those of the poor, Dalits, OBCs, Extremely Backward Classes and minorities, a larger proportion of whom vote for non-BJP parties. Electoral malpractice has united the Opposition, but the charges, much of them overblown, are a sign of institutional distrust and rot. The Opposition space has been severely restricted by the brazen and arbitrary use of central law enforcement agencies, and the ECI has done little to demonstrate its impartiality. All of this has left the Opposition with an approach of discrediting the electoral process, which in itself is a sad commentary on India's democracy.

War cry युद्धघोष

In Bihar, the electoral process itself is an
election issue.

बिहार में, निर्वाचन प्रक्रिया ही एक चुनावी मुद्दा है।

Vote Adhikar Yatra and Electoral Allegations वोट अधिकार यात्रा और चुनावी आरोप

• Congress leader **Rahul Gandhi's 'Vote Adhikar Yatra'** in Bihar is drawing crowds and is turning out to be a platform for **Opposition unity**. In **16 days**, the campaign would cover **1,300 kilometres across 20 districts** and is to conclude in **Patna on September 1**.

बिहार में कांग्रेस नेता **राहुल गांधी की 'वोट अधिकार यात्रा'** भीड़ आकर्षित कर रही है और यह **विपक्षी एकता** का मंच बन रही है। **16 दिनों** में यह अभियान **20 जिलों में 1,300 किलोमीटर** की दूरी तय करेगा और इसका समापन **1 सितंबर को पटना** में होगा।

• On **August 27**, the Chief Minister of **Tamil Nadu, M.K. Stalin**, joined Mr. Gandhi, **RJD leader Tejashwi Yadav** and **CPIML leader Dipankar Bhattacharya** in **Muzaffarpur**. Mr. Stalin has accused the **BJP** of turning the **Election Commission of India (ECI)** into a puppet.

27 अगस्त को **तमिलनाडु के मुख्यमंत्री एम.के. स्टालिन** ने मुजफ्फरपुर में **राहुल गांधी, राजद नेता तेजस्वी यादव और भाजपा (माले) नेता दीपाकर भट्टाचार्य** के साथ भाग लिया। श्री स्टालिन ने आरोप लगाया कि **भाजपा** ने **भारत निर्वाचन आयोग (ECI)** को कठपुतली बना दिया है।

• **NCP leader Sharad Pawar, SP leader Akhilesh Yadav**, senior leaders of the **TMC** and **Left parties** will be in **Patna** on the concluding day.

समापन दिवस पर **राकांपा नेता शरद पवार, सपा नेता अखिलेश यादव, तृणमूल कांग्रेस और वाम दलों के वरिष्ठ नेता पटना** में मौजूद रहेंगे।

• The allegation that an **ECI scheme favours BJP** and disadvantages the **Opposition** has rattled India's political landscape. This alleged "**vote chori (vote theft)**" has become the Opposition's central rallying cry.

यह आरोप कि एक **ECI योजना भाजपा को फायदा** और **विपक्ष को नुकसान** पहुंचाती है, ने भारत के राजनीतिक परिदृश्य को हिला दिया है। यह कथित "**वोट चोरी**" विपक्ष का मुख्य नारा बन गया है।

• Mr. Gandhi's speeches consistently accuse the **BJP** of "**manipulating institutions**" and using the **ECI** as a puppet for its political ends.

राहुल गांधी के भाषण लगातार **भाजपा** पर "**संस्थाओं में हेरफेर**" करने और **ECI** को अपने राजनीतिक उद्देश्यों के लिए कठपुतली की तरह इस्तेमाल करने का आरोप लगाते हैं।

• The **Opposition** has long been complaining about various aspects of the **electoral process** that have become **less transparent** and more **partisan**. Political battles should have been on issues of **governance and livelihoods**, and not on the **integrity of elections**.

विपक्ष लंबे समय से **चुनावी प्रक्रिया** के विभिन्न पहलुओं पर शिकायत



करता रहा है, जो अब कम पारदर्शी और अधिक पक्षपातपूर्ण हो गए हैं। राजनीतिक लड़ाइयाँ शासन और आजीविका के मुद्दों पर होनी चाहिए थीं, न कि चुनावों की निष्पक्षता पर।

- The **Special Intensive Revision (SIR)** of electoral rolls in Bihar and the loopholes exposed by Mr. Gandhi through analysis of one **Assembly constituency in Karnataka** have given strength to Opposition allegations.

बिहार में मतदाता सूची का विशेष गहन संशोधन (SIR) और कर्नाटक की एक विधानसभा सीट के विश्लेषण से उजागर हुई खामियों ने विपक्ष के आरोपों को मजबूती दी है।

- The **ECI** has claimed that over **98%** of voters in the existing list have submitted an **enrolment form** as required in the Bihar SIR. Around **65 lakh names** from the previous list have been removed from the **draft list** published.

ECI ने दावा किया है कि मौजूदा सूची में **98% से अधिक** मतदाताओं ने बिहार SIR के तहत आवश्यक **नामांकन फॉर्म** जमा किया है। पिछली सूची से लगभग **65 लाख नाम** प्रकाशित **मसौदा सूची** से हटा दिए गए हैं।

- It took an **order by the Supreme Court** for the **ECI** to accept the **Aadhaar card** as an acceptable document for establishing identity.

ECI को पहचान स्थापित करने के लिए **आधार कार्ड** को मान्य दस्तावेज़ के रूप में स्वीकार करने में **सुप्रीम कोर्ट के आदेश** की आवश्यकता पड़ी।

- Mr. Gandhi alleges that the names being removed are predominantly those of the **poor, Dalits, OBCs, Extremely Backward Classes and minorities**, who vote more for **non-BJP parties**.

राहुल गांधी का आरोप है कि जिन नामों को हटाया जा रहा है, वे मुख्य रूप से **गरीबों, दलितों, ओबीसी, अति पिछड़े वर्गों और अल्पसंख्यकों** के हैं, जिनमें से अधिकांश **गैर-भाजपा दलों** को वोट देते हैं।

- **Electoral malpractice** has united the **Opposition**, but the charges, much of them **overblown**, are a sign of **institutional distrust** and **rot**.

चुनावी कदाचार ने **विपक्ष** को एकजुट किया है, लेकिन इनमें से कई आरोप **बढ़ा-चढ़ाकर** पेश किए गए हैं, जो **संस्थागत अविश्वास** और **पतन** का संकेत हैं।

- The **Opposition space** has been severely restricted by the arbitrary use of **central law enforcement agencies**, and the **ECI** has done little to demonstrate its **impartiality**.

विपक्षी क्षेत्र को **केंद्रीय कानून प्रवर्तन एजेंसियों** के मनमाने इस्तेमाल से गंभीर रूप से सीमित कर दिया गया है, और **ECI** ने अपनी **निष्पक्षता** दिखाने के लिए बहुत कम किया है।

- All of this has left the **Opposition** with an approach of **discrediting the electoral process**, which is a sad commentary on **India's democracy**.

इन सबने **विपक्ष** को **चुनावी प्रक्रिया को बदनाम** करने के दृष्टिकोण के साथ छोड़ दिया है, जो **भारत के लोकतंत्र** पर एक दुखद टिप्पणी है।



GS III: DM

Deja vu

India must cut monsoon vulnerabilities,
not just build response abilities

H heavy rain has left a trail of destruction across North India. Several districts have been cut off across Himachal Pradesh. Jammu and Kashmir reported over 40 deaths while swollen rivers breached flood marks in Srinagar and Anantnag. In Punjab, entire villages have been inundated and farmland has disappeared. The national capital, too, reported excessive rainfall and a surging Yamuna. The intensity and the volumes of the southwest monsoon have been swinging sharply between the extremes. August's rain has arrived in concentrated bursts, overwhelming fragile slopes in the Himalaya, bursting banks in the plains, and inundating low-lying regions. This erraticism has cut across geographies in a sign of the monsoon's increasing unpredictability. The consequences go beyond immediate damage. Intense rain over short periods amplifies local erosion. Mountain slopes destabilise and raise risks for settlements far removed. Relief, in this context, cannot be confined to reactive measures. The knowledge that concentrated, destructive rainfall is now a recurring possibility makes it imperative for States and the Centre to invest in preventive strategies. Continuing to treat such events as unforeseeable emergencies is to deny the evidence already at hand.

Indeed, framing each calamity as "unprecedented" distracts from the lessons that should already have been learnt. In Himalayan States, forest clearance and road-widening continue sans adjustments such as slope-safe engineering in eco-sensitive zones despite experts warning of irreversibly weakened slopes. As catchments' buffering capacity shrinks, the chance of slope failure rises while silt accumulates in dams and rivers downstream, worsening the flood load. Yet, despite repeated disasters, the early warning and evacuation architecture remains underdeveloped. The capacity to forecast heavy rain has improved but it is not being translated into reliable ground-level warnings. Relief agencies mobilise once the damage has occurred, but systematic drills, pre-positioned supplies and community preparedness remain insufficient. Sadly, States and the Centre continue to pursue strategic road projects and urban expansion with urgency, even in landscapes repeatedly flagged as unstable, while climate-resilient infrastructure lags. Compensatory afforestation and rehabilitation rarely match the qualitative attributes of what has been lost. The cumulative effect is visible as denuded slopes, shrinking catchment areas, and populations at increasingly higher risk. Relief operations command headlines and budgets but unless sustainable infrastructure, landslide mitigation and early-warning systems are pursued equally seriously, the next monsoon spell will launch another cycle of loss. Shifting from acclaiming resilience, post facto, to systematically reducing vulnerabilities beforehand remains overdue.

Déjà vu डेजा वू

India must cut monsoon vulnerabilities, not just build response abilities.

भारत को केवल प्रतिक्रिया क्षमताएँ बनाने के बजाय मॉनसून कमजोरियों को कम करना चाहिए।

**Heavy Rain and Destruction Across North India
उत्तर भारत में भारी बारिश और तबाही**

• Heavy rain has left a trail of destruction across **North India**. Several districts have been cut off across **Himachal Pradesh**.

भारी बारिश ने उत्तर भारत में तबाही मचा दी है। हिमाचल प्रदेश के कई जिले कट गए हैं।

• **Jammu and Kashmir** reported over **40 deaths** while swollen rivers breached flood marks in **Srinagar** and **Anantnag**.

जम्मू और कश्मीर में 40 से अधिक मौतों की खबर है, जबकि श्रीनगर और अनंतनाग में उफनती नदियों ने बाढ़ का स्तर पार कर लिया।

• In **Punjab**, entire villages have been inundated and farmland has disappeared.

पंजाब में पूरे गांव डूब गए और कृषि भूमि गायब हो गई।

• The **national capital** also reported excessive rainfall and a surging **Yamuna**.

राष्ट्रीय राजधानी ने भी अत्यधिक वर्षा और उफनती यमुना की रिपोर्ट की।

• The intensity and volumes of the **southwest monsoon** have been swinging sharply between the extremes.

दक्षिण-पश्चिम मानसून की तीव्रता और मात्रा चरम सीमाओं के बीच तेज़ी से झूल रही है।

• **August's rain** has arrived in concentrated bursts, overwhelming fragile slopes in the **Himalaya**, bursting banks in the **plains**, and inundating **low-lying regions**.

अगस्त की बारिश केंद्रित झटकों में आई है, जिसने हिमालय की नाजुक ढलानों को ढहा दिया, मैदानों में तटबंध तोड़ दिए और निचले क्षेत्रों को डूबो दिया।

• This erraticism has cut across geographies in a sign of the monsoon's **increasing unpredictability**.

यह अस्थिरता मानसून की बढ़ती अप्रत्याशितता का संकेत देते हुए भौगोलिक क्षेत्रों में फैल गई है।

• Consequences go beyond immediate damage. Intense rain over short periods amplifies **local erosion**.

परिणाम तत्काल नुकसान से परे जाते हैं। कम समय में भारी वर्षा स्थानीय अपरदन को बढ़ा देती है।



- Mountain slopes destabilise and raise risks for settlements far removed.
पर्वतीय ढलान अस्थिर हो जाते हैं और दूर बसे बस्तियों के लिए जोखिम बढ़ा देते हैं।
- Relief, in this context, cannot be confined to **reactive measures**.
इस संदर्भ में राहत को केवल **प्रतिक्रियात्मक उपायों** तक सीमित नहीं रखा जा सकता।
- Knowledge that **concentrated, destructive rainfall is now a recurring possibility makes it imperative for States and the Centre to invest in preventive strategies**.
यह जानकारी कि केंद्रित, विनाशकारी वर्षा अब बार-बार होने वाली संभावना है, **राज्यों और केंद्र** के लिए **निवारक रणनीतियों** में निवेश करना अनिवार्य बनाती है।
- Continuing to treat such events as “**unforeseeable emergencies**” is to deny the evidence already at hand.
ऐसे घटनाओं को “**अपूर्व आपदाएँ**” मानते रहना मौजूदा प्रमाणों से इनकार करना है।
- Framing each calamity as “**unprecedented**” distracts from the lessons that should already have been learnt.
हर आपदा को “**अभूतपूर्व**” कहकर पेश करना उन सबक से ध्यान भटकता है जो पहले ही सीख लिए जाने चाहिए थे।
- In **Himalayan States**, forest clearance and road-widening continue sans adjustments such as **slope-safe engineering in eco-sensitive zones** despite expert warnings.
हिमालयी राज्यों में, विशेषज्ञ चेतावनियों के बावजूद **ईको-संवेदनशील क्षेत्रों** में **ढलान-सुरक्षित इंजीनियरिंग** जैसे समायोजन किए बिना ही वनों की कटाई और सड़क चौड़ीकरण जारी है।
- As catchments’ buffering capacity shrinks, slope failure rises while **silt accumulates in dams and rivers downstream**, worsening the flood load.
जलग्रहण क्षेत्रों की बफरिंग क्षमता घटने से ढलानों का ध्वंस बढ़ता है, जबकि **बांधों और नदियों में गाद जमती** है, जिससे बाढ़ का दबाव बढ़ता है।
- Yet, despite repeated disasters, the **early warning and evacuation architecture remains underdeveloped**.
फिर भी, बार-बार आपदाओं के बावजूद **पूर्व चेतावनी और निकासी व्यवस्था** अपर्याप्त बनी हुई है।
- The **capacity to forecast heavy rain has improved but it is not translated into reliable ground-level warnings**.
भारी वर्षा का पूर्वानुमान लगाने की क्षमता बेहतर हुई है, लेकिन यह भरोसेमंद **जमीनी चेतावनियों** में परिवर्तित नहीं हुई।
- Relief agencies mobilise once damage occurs, but **systematic drills, pre-positioned supplies and community preparedness** remain insufficient.
राहत एजेंसियां तब सक्रिय होती हैं जब नुकसान हो चुका होता है, लेकिन **संगठित अभ्यास, पूर्व-स्थित आपूर्ति और सामुदायिक तैयारी** अपर्याप्त रहती है।
- States and the Centre continue to pursue **strategic road projects and urban expansion** urgently, even in landscapes flagged as **unstable**, while **climate-resilient infrastructure lags**.
राज्य और केंद्र **रणनीतिक सड़क परियोजनाओं** और **शहरी विस्तार** को तत्काल आगे बढ़ाते रहते हैं, यहां तक कि **अस्थिर** माने गए क्षेत्रों में भी, जबकि **जलवायु-लचीला बुनियादी ढांचा** पिछड़ रहा है।
- Compensatory afforestation and rehabilitation rarely match the qualitative attributes of what has been lost**.
प्रतिपूरक वनीकरण और पुनर्वास शायद ही खोई हुई गुणवत्ता की भरपाई कर पाते हैं।
- The cumulative effect is visible as **denuded slopes, shrinking catchment areas, and populations at increasingly higher risk**.
इसका संचयी प्रभाव **उजड़ी हुई ढलानों, सिकुड़ते जलग्रहण क्षेत्रों, और बढ़ते खतरे में आबादी के रूप में दिखाई देता है।**
- Relief operations command **headlines and budgets**, but unless **sustainable infrastructure, landslide mitigation and early-warning systems** are pursued seriously, the next monsoon will bring another cycle of loss.
राहत अभियान **सुर्खियां** और **बजट** पाते हैं, लेकिन जब तक **सतत बुनियादी ढांचा, भूस्खलन शमन**



और पूर्व चेतावनी प्रणाली गंभीरता से नहीं अपनाई जातीं, अगला मानसून फिर एक नए नुकसान का चक्र लाएगा।

- Shifting from acclaiming **resilience** post facto to systematically reducing **vulnerabilities beforehand** remains overdue.

आपदा के बाद लचीलापन की सराहना करने से हटकर, पहले से कमजोरियों को कम करना अब भी लंबित है।

India's demographic dividend as a time bomb

GS III: Economy

Nobel laureate Rabindranath Tagore once said, "Don't limit a child to your own learning, for she was born in another time." In the context of India's education system, this quote is particularly resonant today. India's education system is outdated. We are preparing students for jobs that are rapidly disappearing or evolving.

Meanwhile the future of work is being shaped by emerging technologies, led by Artificial Intelligence (AI), being the most disruptive of them all. AI is reshaping how we work and think, with our research suggesting that up to 70% of current jobs, globally, will be impacted, and up to 30% of tasks in many current jobs will get completely automated. A plethora of new jobs related to AI development and implementation are being created as we speak. This technological shift via AI is already changing the world and the job market, whereas the curriculum update cycle in our schools and colleges runs in three-year cycles. This is incremental at best, leading to many students being left behind if we do not up-skill, cross-skill and re-skill them.

India's 'demographic dividend' has long been touted as a key driver of the nation's future growth. With more than 800 million people below the age of 35, the country boasts of having one of the largest youth populations anywhere. This demographic 'asset', however, is increasingly under threat of becoming a 'liability', as the gap between education and real-world skills, and degrees and employability widens. If this gap is not addressed, India's demographic dividend could morph into a demographic time bomb – a paradox at scale.

The stark reality is that while India is producing millions of graduates every year, many of these graduates remain underemployed and are increasingly becoming unemployable. Despite popular belief, this is not merely a problem facing social science or non-STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) students. Over the past decade, data show that 40%-50% of engineering graduates from Indian universities have not been placed in jobs, highlighting the worrying gap between academic education and industry requirements. More and more youngsters are going to college or university, yet employers report increasing difficulty in finding talent with the right skills. Belatedly, educators are acknowledging the problem, with 61% of higher education leaders today agreeing that curricula are not aligned with rapidly changing job market needs.

The mismatch begins in high school

As the AI revolution accelerates, India faces a deepening skills crisis. According to McKinsey, nearly seven out of every 10 Indian jobs are at risk from automation by 2030. This means a massive



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India's demographic 'asset' — its large youth population — is in danger of becoming a 'liability' as the gap between education and real-world skills and degrees and employability grows wider

and unprecedented change could be affecting the nation in just the next five years. Of course, it is not all bad news. The World Economic Forum predicts that AI and other new tech will create 170 million new jobs by 2030. The problem is that in the same period, more than half of this number of newly created jobs (92 million) will be displaced. Consequently, skilling must become a critical national priority.

The challenge lies in how Indian youth are entering the workforce. A significant number are doing so with outdated or irrelevant skills. This misalignment begins in high school, where students are largely unaware of the multitude of career paths that exist. A Mindler Career Awareness Survey from 2022 revealed that 93% of Indian students between classes 8 to 12 are aware of only seven career options, most of which are traditional roles such as doctor, engineer, lawyer, or teacher. In contrast, the modern economy offers over 20,000 career paths. Surprisingly, a mere 7% of students report receiving formal career guidance during their schooling years. This lack of awareness leads to millions of our best and brightest, pursuing degrees that do not match their aptitudes or market needs. Do not take our word for it. According to the India Skills Report 2024, more than 65% of high school graduates pursue degrees that are not aligned with their interests or abilities. This alarming reality means that students emerge from their degrees ill-equipped for the rapidly changing job market, further exacerbating India's unemployment crisis.

Digital tools, but analog mindsets

While most students in India now have access to some technology as smartphones have become much cheaper, and the government has also tried to roll out computer and AI labs, most schools still follow traditional, examination-centric curricula. There is limited focus on career exploration or the development of job-ready skills. As a result, students graduate with degrees but lack the practical experience required by employers. In fact, the Graduate Skills Index 2025 produced by Mercer-Mettl found that only 43% of Indian graduates are deemed job-ready. In our experience with interns and fresh graduates, this figure, if anything, underestimates the scale of the problem.

EdTech platforms primarily focus on test preparation and rote learning, rather than career discovery or skill development. Coursera, Udemy and other look-alikes have tried to address this problem, but the certificates obtained from these are becoming increasingly commoditised. School curricula remain disconnected from the evolving job market, leaving students unprepared for the challenges ahead. Only a few State boards and central bodies have introduced career readiness

frameworks, and even fewer integrate emerging career pathways into their curricula.

The Indian government, to its credit, has launched several initiatives that are aimed at bridging the skills gap, the most prominent being the Skill India Mission, which aimed to train over 400 million individuals by 2022. Despite large-scale funding, the mission fell far short of this target. Multiple systemic issues have contributed to this failure: besides the Skill India Mission, an acronym soup of other policies has also been launched which includes the Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana (PMKVY), Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Kendras (PMKK), Jan Shikshan Sansthan (JSS), Pradhan Mantri Yuva Yojana (PMYY), Skills Acquisition and Knowledge Awareness for Livelihood Promotion (SANKALP), Prime Minister's Internship Scheme, and many others.

What India needs is a cohesive strategy that aligns education and skill development with industry demands. We have undertaken deep research and devised a platform for just that. We are in conversations with NITI Aayog, the Association of Indian Universities (AIU), and the Skill Ministry to translate this solution into reality. Collaboration between the government, private sector and educational institutions will be essential to create a robust ecosystem for skill development.

The decisive decade

India's ambition to emerge as a global digital powerhouse rests on its ability to integrate technology, education and employment into a coherent national framework. India's youth will either be equipped with the skills to thrive in an AI-driven world or be left behind. This is not just an education or employment crisis; it is a crisis where our entire social contract could come undone. The student civil disobedience during the Mandal Commission days in 1990 bear witness to the havoc that youth-led protests can create, escalating into violence, clashes with police, property destruction, and, in some cases, fatalities due to police firings. If India fails to act now, it risks creating a generation of highly literate, even educated but unemployable youth that can become a ticking time-bomb. The World Bank Economic Review has ably captured this paradox at scale in an article by Lant Pritchett, "Where Has All the Education Gone?". The ramifications of such a crisis are dire. The good news is that this is an entirely fixable problem. India must prepare its youth not for the jobs of yesterday, but for the careers of tomorrow. The clock is ticking and it is up to us to convert India's demographic dividend into an asset or a liability.

Ritu Kulshrestha supported the initial stages of the article, specifically with data content and drafting



India's demographic dividend as a time bomb भारत का जनसांख्यिकीय लाभांश एक समय बम के रूप में

Education System and AI Disruption शिक्षा प्रणाली और कृत्रिम बुद्धिमत्ता का प्रभाव

- Nobel laureate **Rabindranath Tagore** once said, "**Don't limit a child to your own learning, for she was born in another time.**"
नोबेल पुरस्कार विजेता रवीन्द्रनाथ टैगोर ने कहा था, "बच्चे को अपनी सीख तक सीमित मत करो, क्योंकि वह किसी और समय में पैदा हुआ है।"
- In the context of **India's education system**, this quote is particularly resonant today. **India's education system** is outdated.
भारत की शिक्षा प्रणाली के संदर्भ में यह उद्धरण आज विशेष रूप से प्रासंगिक है। **भारत की शिक्षा प्रणाली** पुरानी हो चुकी है।
- **We are preparing students for jobs that are rapidly disappearing or evolving.**
हम छात्रों को ऐसी नौकरियों के लिए तैयार कर रहे हैं जो तेजी से गायब हो रही हैं या बदल रही हैं।
- Meanwhile the **future of work** is being shaped by emerging technologies, led by **Artificial Intelligence (AI)**.
इस बीच काम का भविष्य नई प्रौद्योगिकियों से तय हो रहा है, जिसमें **कृत्रिम बुद्धिमत्ता (AI)** सबसे आगे है।
- Our research suggests that up to **70% of current jobs** globally will be impacted, and up to **30% of tasks** in many current jobs will get completely **automated**.
हमारे शोध से पता चलता है कि वैश्विक स्तर पर वर्तमान नौकरियों का लगभग **70%** प्रभावित होगा और कई मौजूदा नौकरियों के **30%** कार्य पूरी तरह **स्वचालित** हो जाएंगे।
- **New jobs related to AI development and implementation are being created.**
AI विकास और कार्यान्वयन से जुड़ी नई नौकरियां बनाई जा रही हैं।
- This **technological shift** via AI is already changing the **job market**, whereas curriculum updates in schools and colleges run in **three-year cycles**.
AI के माध्यम से तकनीकी बदलाव पहले से ही **नौकरी बाजार** को बदल रहा है, जबकि स्कूलों और कॉलेजों में पाठ्यक्रम का अद्यतन **तीन वर्षीय चक्रों** में होता है।
- **With more than 800 million people below the age of 35, India has one of the largest youth populations in the world.**
35 वर्ष से कम आयु के 800 मिलियन से अधिक लोगों के साथ भारत के पास दुनिया की सबसे बड़ी युवा आबादी में से एक है।
- This demographic **asset** is under threat of becoming a **liability**, as the gap between **education and real-world skills** widens.
यह जनसांख्यिकीय **संपत्ति** एक **दायित्व** बनने के खतरे में है, क्योंकि **शिक्षा और वास्तविक कौशल** के बीच की खाई बढ़ रही है।
- Over the past decade, **40%-50% of engineering graduates from Indian universities have not been placed in jobs.**
पिछले दशक में भारतीय विश्वविद्यालयों से निकले **40%-50% इंजीनियरिंग स्नातकों** को नौकरियां नहीं मिलीं।
- Employers report increasing difficulty in finding talent with the **right skills**.
नियोक्ता सही कौशल वाले प्रतिभा को खोजने में बढ़ती कठिनाई की रिपोर्ट कर रहे हैं।



- **61% of higher education leaders agree that curricula are not aligned with job market needs.**
61% उच्च शिक्षा नेताओं का मानना है कि पाठ्यक्रम नौकरी बाजार की जरूरतों के अनुरूप नहीं हैं।

Mismatch Begins in High School

मिसमैच हाई स्कूल से शुरू होता है

- **As the AI revolution accelerates, India faces a deepening skills crisis.**
जैसे-जैसे AI क्रांति तेज हो रही है, भारत एक गहराते कौशल संकट का सामना कर रहा है।
- **According to McKinsey, nearly 7 out of every 10 Indian jobs are at risk from automation by 2030.**
मैकिंजी के अनुसार, 2030 तक 10 में से लगभग 7 भारतीय नौकरियां स्वचालन से खतरे में होंगी।
- The **World Economic Forum** predicts that AI and other new tech will create **170 million new jobs by 2030**, but **92 million** will be displaced.
विश्व आर्थिक मंच का अनुमान है कि AI और अन्य नई तकनीकें 2030 तक 170 मिलियन नई नौकरियां पैदा करेंगी, लेकिन 92 मिलियन नौकरियां खत्म हो जाएंगी।
- A **Mindler Career Awareness Survey (2022)** revealed that **93% of Indian students** (classes 8 to 12) are aware of only **seven career options**, most being traditional roles.
माइंडलर करियर अवेयरनेस सर्वे (2022) ने बताया कि 93% भारतीय छात्र (कक्षा 8 से 12) केवल सात करियर विकल्पों के बारे में जानते हैं, जिनमें से अधिकांश पारंपरिक भूमिकाएं हैं।
- The modern economy offers **20,000 career paths**, but only **7% of students** report receiving formal **career guidance**.
आधुनिक अर्थव्यवस्था 20,000 करियर विकल्प प्रदान करती है, लेकिन केवल 7% छात्र औपचारिक करियर मार्गदर्शन प्राप्त करने की रिपोर्ट करते हैं।
- According to the **India Skills Report 2024**, more than **65% of high school graduates** pursue degrees not aligned with their **interests or abilities**.
इंडिया स्किल्स रिपोर्ट 2024 के अनुसार, 65% से अधिक हाई स्कूल स्नातक ऐसे डिग्री पाठ्यक्रम अपनाते हैं जो उनके रुचियों या क्षमताओं से मेल नहीं खाते।

Digital tools, but analog mindsets

डिजिटल उपकरण, लेकिन एनालॉग मानसिकता

- While most students in India now have access to some technology as smartphones have become much cheaper, and the government has also tried to roll out computer and AI labs, most schools still follow traditional, examination-centric curricula.
जबकि भारत में अधिकांश छात्रों के पास अब कुछ तकनीक तक पहुँच है क्योंकि स्मार्टफोन बहुत सस्ते हो गए हैं, और सरकार ने कंप्यूटर और AI लैब्स शुरू करने की कोशिश की है, फिर भी अधिकांश स्कूल पारंपरिक, परीक्षा-केंद्रित पाठ्यक्रम का पालन करते हैं।
- There is limited focus on career exploration or the development of job-ready skills.
करियर एक्सप्लोरेशन या जॉब-रेडी स्किल्स के विकास पर सीमित ध्यान दिया जाता है।
- As a result, students graduate with degrees but lack the practical experience required by employers.
नतीजतन, छात्र डिग्री के साथ स्नातक होते हैं लेकिन नियोक्ताओं द्वारा आवश्यक व्यावहारिक अनुभव की कमी होती है।
- In fact, the **Graduate Skills Index 2025** produced by Mercer-Mettl found that only **43% of Indian graduates** are deemed job-ready.
वास्तव में, **Graduate Skills Index 2025** (Mercer-Mettl) के अनुसार केवल 43% भारतीय ग्रेजुएट्स को जॉब-रेडी माना गया।



- In our experience with interns and fresh graduates, this figure, if anything, underestimates the scale of the problem.
हमारे अनुभव में, इंटर्न्स और नए ग्रेजुएट्स के साथ, यह आंकड़ा समस्या के पैमाने को कम करके दिखाता है।
- EdTech platforms primarily focus on test preparation and rote learning, rather than career discovery or skill development.
EdTech प्लेटफॉर्म मुख्य रूप से **टेस्ट प्रिपरेशन और रटकर सीखने** पर ध्यान केंद्रित करते हैं, न कि करियर खोज या कौशल विकास पर।
- Coursera, Udemy and other look-alikes have tried to address this problem, but the certificates obtained from these are becoming increasingly commoditised.
Coursera, Udemy और अन्य प्लेटफॉर्म ने इस समस्या को हल करने की कोशिश की है, लेकिन इनसे प्राप्त **सर्टिफिकेट्स** अब तेजी से सामान्य (commoditised) हो रहे हैं।
- School curricula remain disconnected from the evolving job market, leaving students unprepared for the challenges ahead.
स्कूल का पाठ्यक्रम बदलते हुए **जॉब मार्केट** से असंबद्ध बना रहता है, जिससे छात्र भविष्य की चुनौतियों के लिए तैयार नहीं हो पाते।
- Only a few State boards and central bodies have introduced career readiness frameworks, and even fewer integrate emerging career pathways into their curricula.
केवल कुछ ही **राज्य बोर्डों** और **केंद्रीय संस्थाओं** ने करियर रेडीनेस फ्रेमवर्क पेश किए हैं, और बहुत कम ही अपने पाठ्यक्रम में **नए करियर मार्गों** को शामिल करते हैं।
- The Indian government, to its credit, has launched several initiatives that are aimed at bridging the skills gap, the most prominent being the **Skill India Mission**, which aimed to train over **400 million individuals by 2022**.
भारतीय सरकार ने कौशल अंतर को कम करने के लिए कई पहल शुरू कीं, जिनमें सबसे प्रमुख **Skill India Mission** थी, जिसका लक्ष्य **2022 तक 400 मिलियन लोगों** को प्रशिक्षित करना था।
- Despite large-scale funding, the mission fell far short of this target.
बड़े पैमाने पर **फंडिंग** के बावजूद, यह मिशन इस लक्ष्य से बहुत पीछे रह गया।
- Multiple systemic issues have contributed to this failure.
कई **प्रणालीगत समस्याओं** ने इस असफलता में योगदान दिया।
- Besides the Skill India Mission, an acronym soup of other policies has also been launched which includes the **PMKVY, PMKK, JSS, PMYY, SANKALP, Prime Minister's Internship Scheme**, and many others.
Skill India Mission के अलावा, कई अन्य नीतियाँ भी शुरू की गईं, जिनमें **PMKVY, PMKK, JSS, PMYY, SANKALP, प्रधानमंत्री इंटरनशिप योजना** और कई अन्य शामिल हैं।
- What India needs is a cohesive strategy that aligns education and skill development with industry demands.
भारत को एक **सुसंगत रणनीति** की आवश्यकता है जो शिक्षा और कौशल विकास को **उद्योग की मांगों** से जोड़ती हो।
- We have undertaken deep research and devised a platform for just that.
हमने इसके लिए गहन **अनुसंधान** किया है और एक **प्लेटफॉर्म** तैयार किया है।
- We are in conversations with **NITI Aayog, AIU, and the Skill Ministry** to translate this solution into reality.
हम इस समाधान को वास्तविकता में बदलने के लिए **नीति आयोग, AIU और कौशल मंत्रालय** के साथ बातचीत कर रहे हैं।
- Collaboration between the government, private sector and educational institutions will be essential to create a robust ecosystem for skill development.
सरकार, निजी क्षेत्र और शैक्षिक संस्थानों के बीच सहयोग कौशल विकास के लिए एक मजबूत पारिस्थितिकी तंत्र बनाने के लिए आवश्यक होगा।

The decisive decade
निर्णायक दशक



- India's ambition to emerge as a **global digital powerhouse** rests on its ability to integrate **technology, education and employment** into a coherent national framework.
भारत की महत्वाकांक्षा एक **वैश्विक डिजिटल महाशक्ति** बनने की उसकी क्षमता पर निर्भर करती है, जिसमें **प्रौद्योगिकी, शिक्षा और रोजगार** को एक सुसंगत राष्ट्रीय ढांचे में एकीकृत करना होगा।
- India's youth will either be equipped with the skills to thrive in an **AI-driven world** or be left behind.
भारत का **युवा** या तो **AI-आधारित दुनिया** में सफल होने के लिए कौशल से लैस होगा या फिर पीछे रह जाएगा।
- This is not just an education or employment crisis; it is a crisis where our entire **social contract** could come undone.
यह केवल शिक्षा या रोजगार का संकट नहीं है; यह एक ऐसा संकट है जहाँ हमारा पूरा **सामाजिक अनुबंध** टूट सकता है।
- The student civil disobedience during the **Mandal Commission days in 1990** bear witness to the havoc that youth-led protests can create.
1990 में मंडल आयोग के दिनों के दौरान छात्रों के **नागरिक अवज्ञा आंदोलन** इस बात का प्रमाण हैं कि **युवा-नेतृत्व वाले विरोध** कितना बड़ा नुकसान कर सकते हैं।
- These protests escalated into **violence, clashes with police, property destruction**, and in some cases, **fatalities due to police firings**.
ये विरोध बढ़कर **हिंसा, पुलिस के साथ टकराव, संपत्ति का विनाश** और कुछ मामलों में **पुलिस गोलीबारी से मौतों** तक पहुँच गए।
- If India fails to act now, it risks creating a generation of highly literate, even educated but unemployable youth that can become a **ticking time-bomb**.
यदि भारत अब कार्य करने में विफल रहता है, तो यह **उच्च साक्षर और शिक्षित लेकिन बेरोजगार युवाओं** की एक पीढ़ी बना सकता है, जो एक **टिक-टिक करता टाइम-बम** बन सकती है।
- The **World Bank Economic Review** has ably captured this paradox at scale in an article by **Lant Pritchett**, "**Where Has All the Education Gone?**"
विश्व बैंक इकोनॉमिक रिव्यू ने इस विरोधाभास को **Lant Pritchett** के लेख "**Where Has All the Education Gone?**" में बड़े पैमाने पर उजागर किया है।
- The ramifications of such a crisis are dire. The good news is that this is an entirely fixable problem.
ऐसे संकट के परिणाम गंभीर हैं। अच्छी खबर यह है कि यह पूरी तरह **सुधारा जा सकने वाला** समस्या है।
- India must prepare its youth not for the jobs of yesterday, but for the **careers of tomorrow**.
भारत को अपने युवाओं को कल की नौकरियों के लिए नहीं बल्कि **भविष्य के करियर** के लिए तैयार करना होगा।
- The clock is ticking and it is up to us to convert India's **demographic dividend** into an **asset or a liability**.
समय तेजी से बीत रहा है और अब यह हम पर निर्भर है कि भारत की **जनसांख्यिकीय लाभांश** को **संपत्ति या दायित्व** में बदला जाए।



Should States be compensated for revenue loss from GST reforms?

GS III: Taxation

PARLEY

During his Independence Day speech, Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced a "Deepavali gift" to the people in the form of next-generation Goods and Services Tax (GST) reforms. The Ministry of Finance subsequently said that a large part of these reforms involved moving GST from the current mainly four-tier system to a predominantly two-tier structure of 5% and 18%, along with an overall lowering of the average tax rate. What impact will this proposal have on revenues? And should the States be compensated for revenue loss? Pratik Jain and Manoj Mishra discuss these questions in a conversation moderated by T.C.A. Sharad Raghavan. Edited excerpts:

With the average tax rate set to come down, how do you think the government will maintain revenue?

Manoj Mishra: Whenever we talk about GST rate cuts, there is always an immediate concern of how much revenue we are really giving up. If you look at the proposals on the table, whether it is rationalising multiple slabs into just two, or cutting the 28% or 12% slab to 18% or 5%, the short-term impact is real. As per current estimates, that cut may impact ₹60,000 crore-₹1,00,000 crore per year, which is roughly 0.2-0.3% of India's GDP. In the first year of implementation (FY2025-26), when the new structure may only apply for part of the year, the likely hit would be closer to ₹45,000 crore. But this is not a permanent loss. A higher rate of around 40% on sin goods and luxury goods will help recoup some of the revenue. Second, when tax rates go down on essential goods and durables, consumption generally goes up. If you put more people into the formal billing system, you reduce leakages. We have seen this before. So, in my opinion, initially there will be a dip, but growing compliance and an increase in demand will make up for it to a large extent.

About 70% of GST revenues come from the 18% slab. That slab is not going to change materially, so the impact from these overall rate cuts is not likely to be very big. Do you agree?

Pratik Jain: You are right. That is the reason why the 18% slab is not being changed. One of the proposals was to merge the 12% and 18% slabs. But that is not happening because the government did not want to touch the 18% slab, given the revenue implications.

There are revenue implications with items moving from the 12% slab to the 5% one, and



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with many products moving from the 28% slab to the 18% one. But these implications would not be as severe as if the 18% slab was reduced to, say, 13% or 14-15%.

What would the average rate of GST be after the cuts?

PJ: Before GST came in, the average tax incidence was apparently around 15%. This got reduced to around 11.5% after GST came in and after the rate cuts. Currently, it is around 11.5%. The estimate is that it will be close to 10% after the rate cuts proposed by the Centre are implemented. That puts India with the best of the developed economies. To my mind, 10% is a very moderate rate. That should really put us in good stead, as we want to attract more manufacturing over a period of time.

GST revenues are divided between the Centre and the States. But are they divided equally among the States? In other words, will the revenue hit from the tax cuts be divided equally?

MM: The revenue distribution is not equal. When we talk about GST rate cuts, the impact is never going to be uniform. For example, States such as Maharashtra, Karnataka, and Tamil Nadu are manufacturing and service-heavy States with strong urban centres. If GST is reduced on appliances or electronics, the immediate revenue collection from GST for these States would take a visible hit. On the other hand, States that are more dependent on agriculture, such as Bihar or Uttar Pradesh, may not see the same proportion of dent in revenue. This is simply because their consumption basket



As far as taxation is concerned, the States will have to start looking at their own systems and processes. They need to think of how they can plug leakages, increase the tax base, and attract more investment, so that they are self-sufficient in tax.

PRATIK JAIN

is tilted towards essentials, which are already exempted or are at a lower slab. When the GST Council cut rates in July 2018, there was an almost 3-4% dip in the monthly collections of States such as Maharashtra and Karnataka. But the smaller States, such as those in the north-east, barely felt any impact because their tax base is narrower.

Should the States' revenues be protected?

PJ: When GST was launched in July 2017, the Centre provided to the States a compensation guarantee for five years. At that point, they believed that five years is a long period for a transition and so, the States would start standing on their feet after that period got over. Five years have gone by and therefore, technically, there is no compensation (to be given). I think it is very difficult for the Centre to keep compensating the States for a regular tax. There are, of course, ways of looking at allocating more funds for, say, infrastructure development. But as far as taxation is concerned, the States will have to start looking at their own systems and processes. They need to think of how they can plug leakages, how they can increase the tax base, and how they can attract more investment, so that they are self-sufficient in tax. For a country such as ours, a regular compensation provided to the States for any loss on taxation is perhaps not an option.

MM: Whatever Pratik is saying is absolutely correct, but we have to understand that there is no equal distribution of GST revenue. So, the bigger States with larger manufacturing facilities receive a larger share of GST, while the smaller, less industrialised States receive a negligible share of total GST collections. There has to be some mechanism by which these States are compensated. Not necessarily by means of a compensation cess or something like that. There could be another mechanism. There could be a mechanism within the Consolidated Fund of India. I think in many of the developed countries which implemented a GST, initially this kind of process was followed. On the one hand, these countries provided a compensation

that came from GST itself, such as the compensation India's Centre gave the States, and on the other, these countries also provided support through their consolidated funds in the form of special packages.

PJ: I think that a separate fund could be created. A few years ago, Kerala had imposed a flood cess to raise funds for recovery. So, maybe a part of GST could go to a contingency fund where, depending on the specific situation in a State, the GST Council may decide to allocate funds. I think the States will have to see this (the rate cuts and rationalisation) as a larger reform: as a step towards ease of doing business in India and attracting more manufacturing and more investment into India. Yes, economic theories and past experience will tell you that when you reduce the tax rate, your tax base increases. But, obviously, the States will really want to see how this evolves. So, at this point in time, of course there will be some nervousness, but they must come together and appreciate and understand the long-term benefits of any tax reform.

So far, the GST Council has taken all decisions by consensus save maybe twice in its history. How optimistic are you that the GST Council will actually go ahead with the changes that the Centre is proposing and that it will not get derailed by the States which are not agreeing to this?

MM: I believe that they have already done their homework. Otherwise, the Prime Minister would not have announced this in his Independence Day speech. So, it is highly unlikely that GST Council will oppose these rate cuts. There could be some discussions around the compensation to make up for the losses, but the possibility that they will not go ahead with the rate cuts seems highly remote to me.

PJ: The Prime Minister made this statement and then it was reiterated by several government officials, so there already seems to be some consensus. I think that there could be discussions about some products, about whether they should fall in the 5% or 18% slab, for instance. Or there could be discussions about when this should be made effective. But I think they will go ahead with the decision – if not with a consensus, maybe with a vote. I see a very strong possibility of it happening in the next upcoming GST Council meeting.



To listen to the full interview
Scan the code or go to the link
www.thehindu.com

Should States be compensated for revenue loss from GST reforms?

क्या राज्यों को जीएसटी सुधारों से होने वाले राजस्व नुकसान की भरपाई की जानी चाहिए?

GST Reforms Announcement जीएसटी सुधारों की घोषणा

- During his Independence Day speech, Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced a "Deepavali gift" to the people in the form of next-generation Goods and Services Tax (GST) reforms.



अपने स्वतंत्रता दिवस भाषण में प्रधानमंत्री नरेंद्र मोदी ने लोगों को अगली पीढ़ी के वस्तु एवं सेवा कर (GST) सुधारों के रूप में “दीपावली तोहफा” देने की घोषणा की।

- The **Ministry of Finance** said that a large part of these reforms involved moving GST from the mainly **four-tier system** to a **two-tier structure of 5% and 18%**, with an overall lowering of the **average tax rate**.

वित्त मंत्रालय ने कहा कि इन सुधारों का बड़ा हिस्सा जीएसटी को मौजूदा **चार-स्तरीय प्रणाली** से बदलकर **दो-स्तरीय संरचना (5% और 18%)** में लाने और **औसत कर दर** को कम करने से संबंधित है।

- This raised questions: What impact will this proposal have on **revenues**? And should the **States** be compensated for revenue loss? **Pratik Jain** and **Manoj Mishra** discussed these issues in a conversation moderated by **T.C.A. Sharad Raghavan**. इससे सवाल उठे: इस प्रस्ताव का **राजस्व** पर क्या प्रभाव होगा? और क्या **राज्यों** को राजस्व हानि के लिए मुआवजा मिलना चाहिए? इन मुद्दों पर **प्रतीक जैन** और **मनोज मिश्रा** ने **टी.सी.ए. शरद राघवन** के संचालन में चर्चा की।

Revenue Concerns

राजस्व संबंधी चिंताएँ

- **Manoj Mishra**: Whenever we talk about **GST rate cuts**, there is always an immediate concern of how much **revenue** we are giving up.
मनोज मिश्रा: जब भी हम **जीएसटी दरों में कटौती** की बात करते हैं, तो हमेशा यह चिंता होती है कि हम कितना **राजस्व** छोड़ रहे हैं।
- If we look at the proposals, like rationalising slabs into just two, or cutting the **28% or 12% slab to 18% or 5%**, the short-term impact is **real**.
अगर हम प्रस्ताव देखें, जैसे कि स्लैब्स को दो में सीमित करना, या **28%** या **12% स्लैब** को घटाकर **18%** या **5%** करना, तो अल्पकालिक प्रभाव **वास्तविक** होगा।
- Current estimates: this cut may impact **₹60,000 crore - ₹1,00,000 crore per year**, roughly **0.2-0.3% of India's GDP**.
मौजूदा अनुमान: यह कटौती प्रति वर्ष लगभग **₹60,000 करोड़ - ₹1,00,000 करोड़** प्रभावित कर सकती है, जो लगभग **भारत की जीडीपी का 0.2-0.3%** है।
- In the first year of implementation (**FY2025-26**), when new structure may apply only for part of the year, the likely hit would be closer to **₹45,000 crore**.
पहले वर्ष के कार्यान्वयन (**वित्त वर्ष 2025-26**) में, जब नई संरचना केवल कुछ समय के लिए लागू होगी, तब संभावित नुकसान लगभग **₹45,000 करोड़** होगा।
- But this is not a **permanent loss**. A higher rate of around **40%** on **sin goods and luxury goods** will help recoup revenue.
लेकिन यह एक **स्थायी नुकसान** नहीं है। **पाप वस्तुओं और विलासिता की वस्तुओं** पर लगभग **40%** की उच्च दर कुछ राजस्व वापस लाने में मदद करेगी।
- Also, when tax rates go down on **essential goods and durables, consumption increases**. More people enter the **formal billing system**, reducing **leakages**.
साथ ही, जब **आवश्यक वस्तुओं और टिकाऊ वस्तुओं** पर कर दरें कम होती हैं, तो **खपत बढ़ती** है। अधिक लोग **औपचारिक बिलिंग प्रणाली** में आते हैं, जिससे **लीकेज** कम होते हैं।
- So, initially there will be a **dip**, but rising compliance and demand will make up for it. इसलिए, शुरुआत में **गिरावट** होगी, लेकिन बढ़ती अनुपालन और मांग इसकी भरपाई कर देंगे।

18% Slab Importance

18% स्लैब का महत्व

- About **70% of GST revenues** come from the **18% slab**, which is not going to change materially. Hence, overall impact is not very big.



लगभग **70% जीएसटी राजस्व 18% स्लैब** से आता है, जो बड़े स्तर पर नहीं बदलेगा। इसलिए, समग्र प्रभाव बहुत बड़ा नहीं होगा।

- **Pratik Jain:** Correct. That is why the **18% slab** is not being changed. A proposal was there to merge **12% and 18% slabs**, but government avoided it due to **revenue implications**.

प्रतीक जैन: सही है। यही कारण है कि **18% स्लैब** को नहीं बदला जा रहा है। **12% और 18% स्लैब** को मिलाने का प्रस्ताव था, लेकिन **राजस्व प्रभावों** के कारण सरकार ने इससे परहेज किया।

- Revenue implications exist for items moving from **12% slab to 5%**, and many products moving from **28% slab to 18%**.
12% स्लैब से 5% में जाने वाली वस्तुओं और **28% स्लैब से 18%** में जाने वाले कई उत्पादों पर राजस्व प्रभाव होंगे।
- But these are not as severe as if the **18% slab** itself was reduced to **13% or 14-15%**. लेकिन ये उतने गंभीर नहीं होंगे जितना कि अगर स्वयं **18% स्लैब** को घटाकर **13% या 14-15%** किया जाता।

Average Rate of GST after the Cuts कटौतियों के बाद जीएसटी की औसत दर

- Before **GST** came in, the average tax incidence was around **15%**. This got reduced to around **11.5%** after GST came in and after the rate cuts. Currently, it is around **11.5%**. The estimate is that it will be close to **10%** after the rate cuts proposed by the Centre are implemented.
जीएसटी आने से पहले औसत कर भार लगभग **15%** था। जीएसटी लागू होने और दरों में कटौती के बाद यह घटकर लगभग **11.5%** रह गया। वर्तमान में यह लगभग **11.5%** है। अनुमान है कि केंद्र द्वारा प्रस्तावित दर कटौती लागू होने के बाद यह करीब **10%** हो जाएगा।
- That puts **India** with the best of the developed economies. To my mind, **10%** is a very moderate rate. That should put us in good stead, as we want to attract more **manufacturing** over time.
यह **भारत** को विकसित अर्थव्यवस्थाओं की श्रेणी में ला देता है। मेरे विचार से **10%** एक बहुत ही संतुलित दर है। यह हमें अच्छी स्थिति में लाएगा, क्योंकि हम समय के साथ अधिक **निर्माण** आकर्षित करना चाहते हैं।

Revenue Distribution among States राज्यों के बीच राजस्व वितरण

- **GST revenues** are divided between the **Centre** and the **States**. But the revenue distribution is not equal among the States.
जीएसटी राजस्व को **केंद्र** और **राज्यों** के बीच बांटा जाता है। लेकिन राज्यों के बीच राजस्व वितरण समान नहीं है।
- For example, **Maharashtra, Karnataka, and Tamil Nadu** being manufacturing and service-heavy States take a visible hit when GST is reduced on appliances or electronics.
उदाहरण के लिए, **महाराष्ट्र, कर्नाटक और तमिलनाडु** जैसे विनिर्माण और सेवाओं पर आधारित राज्य, जब उपकरणों या इलेक्ट्रॉनिक्स पर जीएसटी घटाया जाता है तो स्पष्ट रूप से राजस्व में गिरावट झेलते हैं।
- On the other hand, **Bihar or Uttar Pradesh**, more dependent on agriculture, may not see the same proportion of dent since their basket is tilted towards **essentials**, which are already exempt or in a lower slab.
दूसरी ओर, **बिहार या उत्तर प्रदेश**, जो कृषि पर अधिक निर्भर हैं, उन्हें ऐसी गिरावट नहीं दिखती क्योंकि उनका उपभोग **आवश्यक वस्तुओं** पर केंद्रित है, जो पहले से ही कर मुक्त या निचली श्रेणी में हैं।



- When the **GST Council** cut rates in **July 2018**, there was a **3-4% dip** in monthly collections of Maharashtra and Karnataka, while smaller States like those in the **north-east** barely felt any impact.
जब **जीएसटी परिषद** ने **जुलाई 2018** में दरों में कटौती की, तो महाराष्ट्र और कर्नाटक की मासिक वसूली में **3-4% की गिरावट** आई, जबकि **उत्तर-पूर्व** के छोटे राज्यों पर इसका लगभग कोई असर नहीं पड़ा।

Should the States' Revenues be Protected? क्या राज्यों के राजस्व की सुरक्षा होनी चाहिए?

- When **GST** was launched in **July 2017**, the **Centre** provided States a compensation guarantee for **five years**. After **five years**, technically, there is no compensation to be given.
जब **जीएसटी जुलाई 2017** में शुरू हुआ, तो **केंद्र** ने राज्यों को **पांच साल** के लिए क्षतिपूर्ति की गारंटी दी। **पांच साल** पूरे होने के बाद तकनीकी रूप से अब कोई क्षतिपूर्ति नहीं दी जाती।
- It is difficult for the Centre to keep compensating States for a regular tax. States will need to improve their own **systems, processes, plug leakages, increase tax base**, and attract more **investment**.
केंद्र के लिए नियमित कर पर राज्यों को लगातार क्षतिपूर्ति देना कठिन है। राज्यों को अपने **प्रणालियों, प्रक्रियाओं में सुधार करना होगा, लीकेज रोकना होगा, कर आधार बढ़ाना होगा** और अधिक **निवेश** आकर्षित करना होगा।
- However, there is **no equal distribution** of GST revenue. Bigger States with large manufacturing facilities receive a larger share, while smaller States receive a negligible share. Some **mechanism** is needed to compensate them.
हालांकि, जीएसटी राजस्व का **समान वितरण नहीं** होता। बड़े विनिर्माण वाले बड़े राज्यों को अधिक हिस्सा मिलता है, जबकि छोटे राज्यों को नगण्य हिस्सा मिलता है। उन्हें क्षतिपूर्ति देने के लिए किसी **प्रक्रिया** की आवश्यकता है।
- One option could be to create a **separate fund**. For instance, **Kerala** had imposed a **flood cess** earlier to raise funds for recovery. Similarly, a part of GST could go to a **contingency fund** to help States in need.
एक विकल्प यह हो सकता है कि एक **अलग फंड** बनाया जाए। उदाहरण के लिए, **केरल** ने पहले **बाढ़ उपकर** लगाया था ताकि पुनर्प्राप्ति के लिए फंड जुटाया जा सके। उसी तरह जीएसटी का एक हिस्सा **आपातकालीन कोष** में जा सकता है ताकि राज्यों की मदद हो सके।
- States must also see **rate cuts and rationalisation** as part of a larger reform for **ease of doing business**, attracting **manufacturing and investment** in the long run.
राज्यों को भी **दर कटौती और तर्कसंगतकरण** को **व्यवसाय सुगमता, निर्माण और निवेश** आकर्षित करने के लिए बड़े सुधार का हिस्सा मानना होगा।

GST Council Consensus and Future Changes जीएसटी परिषद की सहमति और भविष्य के बदलाव

- So far, the **GST Council** has taken all decisions by **consensus** save maybe twice in its history. How optimistic are you that the GST Council will actually go ahead with the changes that the **Centre** is proposing and that it will not get derailed by the **States** which are not agreeing to this?
अब तक, **जीएसटी परिषद** ने अपने इतिहास में शायद केवल दो बार को छोड़कर सभी निर्णय **सर्वसम्मति** से लिए हैं। आप कितने आशावादी हैं कि जीएसटी परिषद वास्तव में उन बदलावों को आगे बढ़ाएगी जिन्हें **केंद्र** प्रस्तावित कर रहा है और यह उन **राज्यों** द्वारा बाधित नहीं होगी जो इससे सहमत नहीं हैं?
- MM**: I believe that they have already done their **homework**. Otherwise, the **Prime Minister** would not have announced this in his **Independence Day speech**. So, it is



highly unlikely that GST Council will oppose these **rate cuts**. There could be some discussions around the **compensation** to make up for the losses, but the possibility that they will not go ahead with the rate cuts seems highly **remote** to me.

एमएम: मेरा मानना है कि उन्होंने पहले से ही अपना **होमवर्क** कर लिया है। अन्यथा, **प्रधानमंत्री** ने इसे अपने **स्वतंत्रता दिवस भाषण** में घोषित नहीं किया होता। इसलिए यह बहुत ही असंभव है कि जीएसटी परिषद इन **दर कटौतियों** का विरोध करेगी। हानि की भरपाई के लिए **मुआवजे** पर कुछ चर्चा हो सकती है, लेकिन मेरे लिए यह संभावना बहुत **कमज़ोर** लगती है कि वे दर कटौतियों को आगे नहीं बढ़ाएंगे।

- **PJ:** The **Prime Minister** made this statement and then it was reiterated by several **government officials**, so there already seems to be some **consensus**. I think that there could be discussions about some **products**, about whether they should fall in the **5%** or **18% slab**, for instance. Or there could be discussions about when this should be made **effective**. But I think they will go ahead with the decision — if not with a **consensus**, maybe with a **vote**. I see a very strong possibility of it happening in the next upcoming **GST Council meeting**.

पीजे: **प्रधानमंत्री** ने यह बयान दिया और फिर कई **सरकारी अधिकारियों** ने इसे दोहराया, इसलिए पहले से ही कुछ **सहमति** दिखती है। मुझे लगता है कि कुछ **उत्पादों** को लेकर चर्चा हो सकती है, जैसे कि उन्हें **5%** या **18% स्लैब** में रखा जाना चाहिए या नहीं। या यह भी चर्चा हो सकती है कि इसे कब **प्रभावी** बनाया जाना चाहिए। लेकिन मुझे लगता है कि वे इस निर्णय को आगे बढ़ाएंगे — अगर **सर्वसम्मति** से नहीं, तो शायद **मतदान** से। मुझे अगली **जीएसटी परिषद बैठक** में इसके होने की बहुत प्रबल संभावना लगती है।

PATRIOTIC



Which sectors are worst hit by tariffs?

How high are the new U.S. tariffs on Indian exports? Which sectors are likely to feel the most pain? What has been the immediate impact on shrimp, textiles, and jewellery? Which sectors are likely to face only a modest impact? What short-term support is the government planning?

GS III: External Sector

EXPLAINER

T.C.A. Sharad Raghavan

The story so far:

The 50% tariffs imposed by the U.S. on imports from India came into effect on August 27, sending ripples through the Indian economy and the government. Several sectors, many of them labour-intensive, have the U.S. as a major export destination, and many are already seeing a significant dip in demand. The government is cognisant of this and is devising a plan to support these sectors, at least in the short term.

How do we know which sectors will be worst affected?

The intensity of the impact of tariffs can be arrived at by looking at three metrics in combination: the amount exported to the U.S. in absolute terms, the share of the U.S. in that sector's total exports to the world, and the final tariff that sector is facing.

If a sector exports a large amount to the U.S., the U.S. forms a major part of its total exports, and the tariffs are high, then the pain felt by that sector will likely be high. However, if the U.S. forms a small share in a sector's total exports, then the impact is likely to be limited.

Which sectors are likely to see a severe impact?

According to data from the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, India exported about \$2.4 billion worth of shrimp to the U.S. in 2024-25, making up 32.4% of its total shrimp exports. Earlier, the U.S. only imposed a 10% countervailing tariff on shrimp from India. However, the addition of the 50% tariff now takes this total to 60%.



Major impact: Several sectors, many of them labour-intensive, have the U.S. as a major export destination, and many are already seeing a significant dip in demand. GETTY IMAGES

Reports indicate that exporter purchase prices of shrimp in Andhra Pradesh – the source of the majority of India's shrimp – fell by about 20% following the 25% tariff imposed on August 7. Prices are likely to fall further due to the current 60% tariff.

India exported \$10 billion worth of diamonds, gold, and jewellery to the U.S. in 2024-25, accounting for 40% of total exports in this sector. Tariffs have now risen from 2.1% to 52.1%. Reports from hubs like Surat already show that production cuts are underway. Surat's diamond polishing industry itself employs about 12 lakh people.

One of the worst-hit sectors is likely to be India's textiles and apparel exports sector. These exports to the U.S. stood at \$10.8 billion in 2024-25, with apparel alone accounting for \$5.4 billion. Further, the U.S. accounts for 35% of India's apparel exports. The sector now faces a 63.9% tariff, up from the previous 13.9%.

"Tiruppur exporters are rushing shipments while cancelling new styles," said the Global Trade Research Initiative (GTRI) in its report. "Noida-Gurugram has frozen planned capacity expansions and is considering downsizing. Ludhiana reports a slump in yarn and fabric demand, with working capital under stress, and Bengaluru units are preparing for shift cuts as buyers push for offshore production."

India exported \$1.2 billion worth of carpets to the U.S. in 2024-25, which makes up 58.6% of total carpet exports. Tariffs have increased from 2.9% to 52.9%.

Other significantly affected sectors include handicrafts, leather and shoes, furniture and bedding, and agricultural products such as basmati rice, spices, tea, pulses, and sesame.

Which sectors will see a more modest impact?

India's export of organic chemicals to the

U.S. stood at \$2.7 billion. This made up 13.2% of India's total exports. The sector now faces 54% import tariffs, up from the previous 4%. The exporters' body, CHEMEXCIL, and industry bodies have already approached the government for some intervention.

India exported \$4.7 billion worth of steel, aluminium, and copper to the U.S. in 2024-25, about 17% of India's total exports of these metals.

"While the U.S. is not the largest market for Indian metals, it is critical for hundreds of SMEs in the Delhi-NCR engineering belt and eastern foundry hubs," GTRI said.

"The tariff threatens to disrupt jobs in stainless steel, aluminium casting, and copper semi-finished goods, putting severe pressure on small and medium exporters reliant on U.S. orders."

India exported \$6.7 billion worth of machinery and mechanical appliances to the U.S. in 2024-25, making up 20% of its total exports. This sector is also expected to face a drop in demand.

Is the government planning to help these sectors?

Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Commerce and Industries Minister Piyush Goyal have been repeating the 'swadeshi' mantra and asking Indians to 'go vocal for local', so that the economy can reduce its dependence on exports. Apart from this, *The Hindu* reported on August 13 that the government is working on a multi-ministry plan to ease the short-term pain of exporters.

In the medium to long term, the government is working with exporter bodies to diversify their export destinations and make better use of existing free trade agreements. The Reserve Bank of India Governor Sanjay Malhotra has also said that the central bank stands ready to provide whatever help it can.

THE GIST

Severe impact is expected on shrimp, diamonds and jewellery, textiles and apparel, and carpets due to tariffs rising up to 60%, with reports of production cuts, price falls, and downsizing.

Moderate impact will be felt in organic chemicals, metals, and machinery exports, with SMEs and exporters' bodies seeking intervention.

The government is working on a multi-ministry plan, promoting the 'swadeshi' and 'vocal for local' push, while also aiming to diversify export destinations.

Which sectors are worst hit by tariffs? कौन से क्षेत्र टैरिफ से सबसे ज्यादा प्रभावित हैं?

- The **50% tariffs** imposed by the **U.S.** on imports from **India** came into effect on **August 27**, sending ripples through the Indian economy and the government. **भारत से आयात पर अमेरिका द्वारा लगाए गए 50% शुल्क 27 अगस्त से प्रभावी हुए**, जिससे भारतीय अर्थव्यवस्था और सरकार पर बड़ा असर पड़ा।
- Several sectors, many of them **labour-intensive**, have the **U.S.** as a major export destination, and many are already seeing a **significant dip in demand**. कई क्षेत्र, जिनमें से अधिकतर **श्रम-गहन** हैं, का प्रमुख निर्यात गंतव्य **अमेरिका** है, और इनमें से कई में **मांग में उल्लेखनीय गिरावट** पहले ही देखी जा रही है।
- The government is devising a plan to support these sectors, at least in the **short term**. सरकार इन क्षेत्रों का समर्थन करने के लिए, कम से कम **अल्पावधि** में, एक योजना बना रही है।



Impact Assessment

प्रभाव का आकलन

- The intensity of the impact of tariffs can be arrived at by looking at three metrics in combination:
शुल्कों के प्रभाव की तीव्रता को तीन मापदंडों को मिलाकर समझा जा सकता है:
 - the **amount exported to the U.S.** in absolute terms,
अमेरिका को निर्यात की गई मात्रा (पूर्ण रूप में),
 - the **share of the U.S. in that sector's total exports to the world**, and
उस क्षेत्र के कुल निर्यात में अमेरिका की हिस्सेदारी, और
 - the **final tariff** that sector is facing.
वह क्षेत्र जिस अंतिम शुल्क का सामना कर रहा है।
- If a sector exports a **large amount to the U.S.**, the **U.S.** forms a **major part** of its total exports, and the **tariffs are high**, then the pain will likely be high.
यदि कोई क्षेत्र अमेरिका को बड़ी मात्रा में निर्यात करता है, अमेरिका उसके कुल निर्यात का बड़ा हिस्सा है, और शुल्क अधिक हैं, तो उस क्षेत्र पर असर अधिक होगा।
- If the **U.S. forms only a small share**, the impact is likely to be **limited**.
यदि अमेरिका की हिस्सेदारी कम है, तो असर संभवतः सीमित रहेगा।

Severely Impacted Sectors

गंभीर रूप से प्रभावित क्षेत्र

- Shrimp Exports:** India exported **\$2.4 billion** worth of shrimp to the **U.S. in 2024-25**, making up **32.4%** of its total shrimp exports. The **total tariff has now risen to 60%** (earlier 10% + new 50%).
झींगा निर्यात: भारत ने 2024-25 में अमेरिका को 2.4 अरब डॉलर मूल्य का झींगा निर्यात किया, जो कुल झींगा निर्यात का 32.4% है। कुल शुल्क अब 60% हो गया है (पहले 10% + नया 50%)।
- Reports indicate that exporter **purchase prices** of shrimp in **Andhra Pradesh** fell by about **20%** after the **25% tariff on August 7**, and prices are likely to fall further under the **60% tariff**.
रिपोर्टों के अनुसार, आंध्र प्रदेश में झींगा के निर्यातक खरीद मूल्य 7 अगस्त को लगाए गए 25% शुल्क के बाद लगभग 20% गिर गए, और 60% शुल्क के तहत और गिरने की संभावना है।
- Diamonds, Gold, Jewellery:** India exported **\$10 billion** worth of these items to the **U.S. in 2024-25**, accounting for **40%** of total exports in this sector. Tariffs have risen from **2.1% to 52.1%**.
हीरे, सोना, आभूषण: भारत ने 2024-25 में अमेरिका को 10 अरब डॉलर मूल्य के ये सामान निर्यात किए, जो इस क्षेत्र के कुल निर्यात का 40% है। शुल्क 2.1% से बढ़कर 52.1% हो गया है।
- Surat's diamond polishing industry** alone employs about **12 lakh people**, and reports already show **production cuts**.
केवल सूरत का हीरा पॉलिशिंग उद्योग लगभग 12 लाख लोगों को रोजगार देता है, और रिपोर्ट पहले से ही उत्पादन कटौती दिखा रही हैं।
- Textiles & Apparel:** Exports to the **U.S.** stood at **\$10.8 billion** in **2024-25**, with apparel alone worth **\$5.4 billion**. The U.S. accounts for **35%** of India's apparel exports. The sector now faces a **63.9% tariff** (up from 13.9%).
कपड़ा और परिधान: अमेरिका को निर्यात 2024-25 में 10.8 अरब डॉलर रहा, जिसमें केवल परिधान 5.4 अरब डॉलर के थे। अमेरिका भारत के परिधान निर्यात का 35% हिस्सा है। अब इस क्षेत्र पर 63.9% शुल्क (पहले 13.9%) लग रहा है।
- According to **GTRI reports**:
GTRI रिपोर्टों के अनुसार:



- **Tiruppur exporters** are rushing shipments while cancelling new styles.
तिरुप्पुर निर्यातक शिपमेंट्स तेजी से भेज रहे हैं लेकिन नए स्टाइल रद्द कर रहे हैं।
- **Noida-Gurugram** has frozen planned capacity expansions and is considering downsizing.
नोएडा-गुरुग्राम ने प्रस्तावित क्षमता विस्तार रोक दिया है और आकार घटाने पर विचार कर रहा है।
- **Ludhiana** reports a slump in yarn and fabric demand with working capital stress.
लुधियाना धागा और कपड़े की मांग में गिरावट की रिपोर्ट कर रहा है और कार्यशील पूंजी पर दबाव है।
- **Bengaluru units** are preparing for shift cuts as buyers push for offshore production.
बेंगलुरु इकाइयां शिफ्ट कटौती की तैयारी कर रही हैं क्योंकि खरीदार ऑफशोर उत्पादन के लिए दबाव डाल रहे हैं।
- **Carpets:** India exported **\$1.2 billion** worth of carpets to the U.S. in **2024-25**, which makes up **58.6%** of total carpet exports. Tariffs have increased from **2.9% to 52.9%**.
कालीन: भारत ने 2024-25 में अमेरिका को **1.2 अरब डॉलर** मूल्य के कालीन निर्यात किए, जो कुल कालीन निर्यात का **58.6%** है। शुल्क **2.9% से बढ़कर 52.9%** हो गया है।
- Other **significantly affected sectors** include **handicrafts, leather and shoes, furniture and bedding, and agricultural products** such as **basmati rice, spices, tea, pulses, and sesame**.
अन्य गंभीर रूप से प्रभावित क्षेत्र हैं हस्तशिल्प, चमड़ा और जूते, फर्नीचर और बिस्तर, और कृषि उत्पाद जैसे बासमती चावल, मसाले, चाय, दालें और तिल।

Which sectors will see a more modest impact? कौन से क्षेत्रों पर अपेक्षाकृत कम प्रभाव पड़ेगा?

- India's export of **organic chemicals** to the U.S. stood at **\$2.7 billion**. This made up **13.2%** of India's total exports. The sector now faces **54% import tariffs**, up from the previous **4%**. The exporters' body, **CHEMEXCIL**, and industry bodies have already approached the government for some intervention.
भारत का **जैविक रसायनों (organic chemicals)** का निर्यात अमेरिका को **\$2.7 बिलियन** रहा। यह भारत के कुल निर्यात का **13.2%** था। यह क्षेत्र अब **54% आयात शुल्क** का सामना कर रहा है, जो पहले **4%** था। निर्यातक संगठन **CHEMEXCIL** और उद्योग संगठनों ने पहले ही सरकार से कुछ हस्तक्षेप के लिए संपर्क किया है।
- India exported **\$4.7 billion** worth of **steel, aluminium, and copper** to the U.S. in **2024-25**, about **17%** of India's total exports of these metals.
भारत ने 2024-25 में अमेरिका को **\$4.7 बिलियन** मूल्य का **इस्पात, एल्युमिनियम और तांबा** निर्यात किया, जो इन धातुओं के भारत के कुल निर्यात का लगभग **17%** था।
 - "While the U.S. is not the largest market for Indian metals, it is critical for hundreds of **SMEs** in the **Delhi-NCR engineering belt** and eastern foundry hubs," GTRI said.
GTRI ने कहा, "हालांकि अमेरिका भारतीय धातुओं के लिए सबसे बड़ा बाजार नहीं है, लेकिन यह **दिल्ली-एनसीआर इंजीनियरिंग बेल्ट** और पूर्वी फाउंड्री हब में सैकड़ों **लघु और मध्यम उद्यमों (SMEs)** के लिए महत्वपूर्ण है।"
 - "The tariff threatens to disrupt jobs in **stainless steel, aluminium casting, and copper semi-finished goods**, putting severe pressure on small and medium exporters reliant on U.S. orders."
"यह शुल्क **स्टेनलेस स्टील, एल्युमिनियम कास्टिंग और कॉपर सेमी-फिनिशड उत्पादों** में



नौकरियों को बाधित करने की धमकी देता है, जिससे अमेरिका के ऑर्डरों पर निर्भर छोटे और मध्यम निर्यातकों पर गंभीर दबाव पड़ रहा है।”

- India exported **\$6.7 billion** worth of **machinery and mechanical appliances to the U.S. in 2024-25, making up 20%** of its total exports. This sector is also expected to face a drop in demand.

भारत ने 2024-25 में अमेरिका को **\$6.7 बिलियन** मूल्य की **मशीनरी और यांत्रिक उपकरण** निर्यात किए, जो इसके कुल निर्यात का **20%** था। इस क्षेत्र में भी मांग में गिरावट की संभावना है।

Is the government planning to help these sectors?

क्या सरकार इन क्षेत्रों की मदद करने की योजना बना रही है?

- **Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Commerce and Industries Minister Piyush Goyal** have been repeating the **‘swadeshi’ mantra** and asking Indians to **‘go vocal for local’**, so that the economy can reduce its dependence on exports.

प्रधानमंत्री नरेंद्र मोदी और वाणिज्य एवं उद्योग मंत्री पीयूष गायल बार-बार **‘स्वदेशी मंत्र’** दोहरा रहे हैं और भारतीयों से **‘लोकल के लिए वोकल’** बनने की अपील कर रहे हैं, ताकि अर्थव्यवस्था निर्यात पर अपनी निर्भरता कम कर सके।

- Apart from this, the **government is working on a multi-ministry plan to ease the short-term pain of exporters.**

इसके अलावा, **13 अगस्त** को **द हिंदू** ने रिपोर्ट किया कि सरकार निर्यातकों की अल्पकालिक कठिनाइयों को कम करने के लिए **बहु-मंत्रालयी योजना** पर काम कर रही है।

- In the **medium to long term**, the government is **working with exporter bodies to diversify their export destinations** and **make better use of existing free trade agreements.**

मध्यम से दीर्घकाल में सरकार निर्यातक संगठनों के साथ मिलकर उनके **निर्यात गंतव्यों में विविधता** लाने और **मौजूदा मुक्त व्यापार समझौतों** का बेहतर उपयोग करने पर काम कर रही है।

- The **Reserve Bank of India Governor Sanjay Malhotra** has also said that the central bank stands ready to provide whatever help it can.

भारतीय रिज़र्व बैंक के गवर्नर संजय मल्होत्रा ने भी कहा है कि केंद्रीय बैंक जो भी मदद कर सकता है, देने के लिए तैयार है।



Why U.S. is ending duty-free imports of low-value goods?

What does this mean for global trade and businesses?

GS III: External Sector

Garimella Subramaniam

The story so far:

Postal and courier services worldwide are bracing for logistics disruptions, as the U.S. eliminates duty-free imports of low-value goods, effective August 29. Set at a maximum purchase threshold of \$800 per person per day, shipments of merchandise ranging from textiles to toys, cosmetics, and electronic accessories have until now been covered under the de minimis exemption – Latin for “too small to be trifled with”. These imports will now face tariffs based on the country of origin. The duty exemption was reversed in May for imports from China, which accounts for over 50% of de minimis imports, according to the U.S. Customs and Border Protection agency. This dealt a severe blow to the country’s leading e-commerce platforms, like Temu, and textile retailers such as Shein. The latest move is part of the barrage of measures the Donald Trump administration has embarked upon to narrow the U.S. trade deficit with the biggest economies,

prevent intellectual property theft, and block the influx of counterfeit products. Opponents claim that the abolition of the duty exemption would reduce aggregate welfare by between \$11-\$13 billion and disproportionately hurt the poorer, citing a National Bureau of Economic Research (NBER) study.

What is the de minimis regulation, and how did it work?

The de minimis regulation, rooted in Section 321 of the 1930 Tariff Act, allowed American tourists to send home souvenirs without incurring taxes. In the 1990s, the rationale of the provision was recast as a trade facilitation and liberalisation tool designed to reduce transaction costs for businesses and consumers. When Congress quadrupled the value of exempted goods from \$200 to \$800 in 2016, the number of items that were eligible for coverage was also expanded.

An important consideration behind the move was to balance administrative costs with potential revenue earnings in the wake of the exponential rise in imports into the country in recent years. Fresh

tariffs during President Trump’s first term may have paradoxically contributed to the proliferation of trade via the postal route. About four million deliveries were estimated to be processed daily under the de minimis exemption scheme. The volume of imports had increased from 134 million in 2015 to 1.36 billion in 2024, according to the White House.

How does this fit into previous international agreements?

The removal of the duty-free exemption recalls a 2019 bargain that Mr. Trump extracted from the 192-nation-strong Universal Postal Union (UPU) 2019 in a bid to block other nations from free-riding on the American economy.

The UPU conceded to the U.S. demand to hike postal rates applicable for exporters from developing nations, which Washington maintained were substantially lower than the costs incurred by domestic customers. The administration further reasoned that the anomaly had incentivised the flood of Chinese goods into the U.S., putting domestic importers at a disadvantage.

Are there international parallels?

The European Union has proposed a handling fee of €2 for products directly imported by individuals, and a €0.5 fee received by warehouses. The aim is to crack down on dangerous and illegal goods flooding the single market and distorting competition in the 27-country bloc. Crucially, the reform shifts responsibility for direct purchases made by individuals onto Chinese e-commerce platforms, which must furnish additional data to customs officials for closer scrutiny. In a related move, imports into the EU last year of 4.6 billion low-value parcels – a four-fold increase over 2022, 90% of which were from China – have brought to the fore the termination of the €150 duty-free threshold, offering greater protection to consumers and businesses.

What does this indicate about global trade?

Together, the U.S. and EU actions on low-value imports are a most telling statement that the basic pillars of the post-war world order, exemplified among others by the World Trade Organization, are being systematically undermined by its founding architects.

Evidence that the multilateral framework is near collapse can be gathered from the inability of sovereign and independent nations to formulate a concerted response to Mr. Trump during recent negotiations over bilateral trade agreements with Washington. Most notable of these is the EU’s trade pact with the U.S.

The writer is Director, Strategic Initiatives, AgnoShin Technologies

Why U.S. is ending duty-free imports of low-value goods? अमेरिका कम-मूल्य वाले सामानों के ड्यूटी-फ्री आयात को क्यों समाप्त कर रहा है?

- Postal and courier services worldwide are bracing for logistics disruptions, as the **U.S. eliminates duty-free imports of low-value goods, effective August 29**. दुनिया भर में डाक और कूरियर सेवाएँ लॉजिस्टिक व्यवधानों के लिए तैयार हो रही हैं क्योंकि अमेरिका 29 अगस्त से कम मूल्य वाले सामान के **ड्यूटी-फ्री आयात** को समाप्त कर रहा है।
- Set at a maximum purchase threshold of **\$800 per person per day**, shipments of merchandise ranging from **textiles to toys, cosmetics, and electronic accessories** have until now been covered under the **de minimis exemption** — Latin for “too small to be trifled with”. प्रति व्यक्ति प्रतिदिन अधिकतम **\$800** की खरीद सीमा पर तय, **कपड़ों से लेकर खिलौनों, कॉस्मेटिक्स और इलेक्ट्रॉनिक एक्सेसरीज़** तक की खेप अब तक **डी मिनिमिस छूट** (लैटिन में “बहुत छोटा कि उस पर ध्यान न दिया जाए”) के अंतर्गत आती थी।
- These imports will now face **tariffs based on the country of origin**. अब इन आयातों पर **मूल देश के आधार पर शुल्क** लगाया जाएगा।
- The duty exemption was reversed in **May** for imports from **China**, which accounts for over **50%** of de minimis imports, according to the **U.S. Customs and Border Protection agency**.



अमेरिकी कस्टम्स और बॉर्डर प्रोटेक्शन एजेंसी के अनुसार, मई में चीन से आयात के लिए यह शुल्क छूट वापस ले ली गई थी, जो डी मिनिमिस आयात का 50% से अधिक है।

- This dealt a severe blow to the country's leading e-commerce platforms like Temu, and textile retailers such as Shein.
इससे देश के प्रमुख ई-कॉमर्स प्लेटफॉर्म जैसे Temu, और टेक्सटाइल रिटेलर्स जैसे Shein को गंभीर झटका लगा।
- The latest move is part of the barrage of measures the Donald Trump administration has embarked upon to narrow the U.S. trade deficit with the biggest economies, prevent intellectual property theft, and block the influx of counterfeit products.
यह नवीनतम कदम डोनाल्ड ट्रम्प प्रशासन द्वारा उठाए गए उपायों की श्रृंखला का हिस्सा है, जिसका उद्देश्य प्रमुख अर्थव्यवस्थाओं के साथ अमेरिका के व्यापार घाटे को कम करना, बौद्धिक संपदा की चोरी को रोकना और नकली उत्पादों के प्रवाह को रोकना है
- Opponents claim that the abolition of the duty exemption would reduce aggregate welfare by between \$11-\$13 billion and disproportionately hurt the poorer, citing a National Bureau of Economic Research (NBER) study.
विरोधियों का दावा है कि शुल्क छूट समाप्त करने से समग्र कल्याण में \$11-\$13 बिलियन की कमी होगी और यह असमान रूप से गरीबों को नुकसान पहुँचाएगा, जैसा कि नेशनल ब्यूरो ऑफ इकोनॉमिक रिसर्च (NBER) अध्ययन में कहा गया है।

What is the de minimis regulation, and how did it work?

डी मिनिमिस विनियमन क्या है, और यह कैसे काम करता था?

- The de minimis regulation, rooted in Section 321 of the 1930 Tariff Act, allowed American tourists to send home souvenirs without incurring taxes.
डी मिनिमिस विनियमन, जिसकी जड़ें 1930 टैरिफ अधिनियम की धारा 321 में हैं, ने अमेरिकी पर्यटकों को बिना कर चुकाए घर पर स्मृति चिन्ह भेजने की अनुमति दी।
- In the 1990s, the rationale of the provision was recast as a trade facilitation and liberalisation tool designed to reduce transaction costs for businesses and consumers.
1990 के दशक में, इस प्रावधान के तर्क को एक व्यापार सुविधा और उदारीकरण उपकरण के रूप में फिर से परिभाषित किया गया, जिसे व्यवसायों और उपभोक्ताओं के लिए लेनदेन लागत को कम करने के लिए डिज़ाइन किया गया था।
- When Congress quadrupled the value of exempted goods from \$200 to \$800 in 2016, the number of items that were eligible for coverage was also expanded.
जब 2016 में कांग्रेस ने छूट प्राप्त वस्तुओं के मूल्य को \$200 से \$800 कर दिया, तो छूट पाने वाली वस्तुओं की संख्या भी बढ़ा दी गई।
- An important consideration behind the move was to balance administrative costs with potential revenue earnings in the wake of the exponential rise in imports into the country in recent years.
इस कदम के पीछे एक महत्वपूर्ण विचार यह था कि हाल के वर्षों में देश में आयात में तेजी से वृद्धि के मद्देनजर प्रशासनिक लागतों और संभावित राजस्व अर्जन के बीच संतुलन बनाया जाए।
- Fresh tariffs during President Trump's first term may have paradoxically contributed to the proliferation of trade via the postal route.
राष्ट्रपति ट्रम्प के पहले कार्यकाल के दौरान नए टैरिफ ने विडंबना यह है कि डाक मार्ग से व्यापार के प्रसार में योगदान दिया हो सकता है।
- About four million deliveries were estimated to be processed daily under the de minimis exemption scheme.
डी मिनिमिस छूट योजना के तहत प्रतिदिन लगभग चार मिलियन डिलीवरी संसाधित होने का अनुमान था।



- The volume of imports had increased from **134 million in 2015** to **1.36 billion in 2024**, according to the **White House**.
व्हाइट हाउस के अनुसार, आयात की मात्रा **2015 में 134 मिलियन** से बढ़कर **2024 में 1.36 बिलियन** हो गई थी।

How does this fit into previous international agreements?

पिछले अंतर्राष्ट्रीय समझौतों में यह कैसे फिट बैठता है?

- The removal of the **duty-free exemption** recalls a **2019 bargain** that Mr. Trump extracted from the **192-nation-strong Universal Postal Union (UPU)** in a bid to block other nations from free-riding on the American economy.
ड्यूटी-फ्री छूट को हटाना **2019 के समझौते** की याद दिलाता है, जिसे ट्रंप ने **192-देशों वाले यूनिवर्सल पोस्टल यूनियन (UPU)** से इस उद्देश्य से हासिल किया था कि अन्य देश अमेरिकी अर्थव्यवस्था पर मुफ्त का लाभ न उठा सकें।
- The **UPU conceded** to the U.S. demand to **hike postal rates** applicable for exporters from developing nations, which Washington maintained were substantially lower than the costs incurred by domestic customers.
UPU ने अमेरिका की इस मांग को स्वीकार किया कि विकासशील देशों से आने वाले निर्यातकों के लिए **डाक दरें बढ़ाई जाएं**, क्योंकि वॉशिंगटन का मानना था कि ये दरें घरेलू ग्राहकों की तुलना में काफी कम थीं।
- The administration further reasoned that the anomaly had **incentivised the flood of Chinese goods** into the U.S., putting domestic importers at a disadvantage.
प्रशासन ने आगे यह तर्क दिया कि इस असमानता ने अमेरिका में **चीनी वस्तुओं की बाढ़** को प्रोत्साहित किया, जिससे घरेलू आयातक नुकसान में रहे।

Are there international parallels?

क्या अंतर्राष्ट्रीय स्तर पर समानताएं हैं?

- The **European Union (EU)** has proposed a **handling fee of €2** for products directly imported by individuals, and a **€0.5 fee** received by warehouses.
यूरोपीय संघ (EU) ने व्यक्तियों द्वारा सीधे आयात किए गए उत्पादों पर **€2 का हैंडलिंग शुल्क** और गोदामों द्वारा प्राप्त माल पर **€0.5 का शुल्क** प्रस्तावित किया है।
- The aim is to **crack down on dangerous and illegal goods** flooding the **single market** and **distorting competition** in the **27-country bloc**.
इसका उद्देश्य **खतरनाक और अवैध वस्तुओं** पर रोक लगाना है, जो **सिंगल मार्केट** में बाढ़ की तरह आ रही हैं और **27-देशों के समूह** में प्रतिस्पर्धा को विकृत कर रही हैं।
- Crucially, the reform shifts responsibility for direct purchases made by individuals onto **Chinese e-commerce platforms**, which must furnish **additional data** to customs officials for closer scrutiny.
खास तौर पर, यह सुधार व्यक्तियों द्वारा की गई प्रत्यक्ष खरीद की जिम्मेदारी **चीनी ई-कॉमर्स प्लेटफॉर्म** पर डालता है, जिन्हें सीमा शुल्क अधिकारियों को गहन जांच के लिए **अतिरिक्त डेटा** उपलब्ध कराना होगा।
- In a related move, imports into the **EU** last year of **4.6 billion low-value parcels** — a **four-fold increase** over 2022, **90% of which were from China** — have brought to the fore the **termination of the €150 duty-free threshold**, offering greater protection to consumers and businesses.
इसी से जुड़ा एक कदम यह था कि पिछले वर्ष **EU** में **4.6 बिलियन लो-वैल्यू पार्सल** आयात हुए — जो 2022 की तुलना में **चार गुना वृद्धि** थी, जिनमें से **90% चीन** से थे। इसने **€150 ड्यूटी-फ्री सीमा की समाप्ति** को प्रमुखता दी, जिससे उपभोक्ताओं और व्यवसायों को अधिक सुरक्षा मिल सके।



What does this indicate about global trade?

यह वैश्विक व्यापार के बारे में क्या संकेत देता है?

- Together, the **U.S. and EU actions** on low-value imports are a clear statement that the **basic pillars of the post-war world order**, exemplified among others by the **World Trade Organization (WTO)**, are being systematically undermined by its founding architects.
अमेरिका और यूरोपीय संघ की कार्रवाइयां मिलकर यह स्पष्ट संदेश देती हैं कि युद्धोत्तर विश्व व्यवस्था के बुनियादी स्तंभ, जिनका प्रतिनिधित्व विशेष रूप से विश्व व्यापार संगठन (WTO) करता है, को इसके संस्थापकों द्वारा ही व्यवस्थित रूप से कमजोर किया जा रहा है।
- Evidence that the **multilateral framework** is near collapse can be gathered from the inability of sovereign and independent nations to **formulate a concerted response to Mr. Trump** during recent negotiations over **bilateral trade agreements** with Washington.
इस बात के प्रमाण कि बहुपक्षीय ढांचा लगभग ढहने की कगार पर है, इस तथ्य से मिलते हैं कि हाल ही में द्विपक्षीय व्यापार समझौतों पर वॉशिंगटन के साथ वार्ताओं के दौरान स्वतंत्र और संप्रभु राष्ट्र ट्रंप के प्रति एकजुट प्रतिक्रिया तैयार करने में विफल रहे।
- Most notable of these is the **EU's trade pact with the U.S.**
इनमें सबसे उल्लेखनीय है यूरोपीय संघ का अमेरिका के साथ व्यापार समझौता।

PATRIOTICIAS